

# the chronicle

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## Tragic end for beauty queen mum



Helen Baker

A FORMER Black Country beauty queen who used to welcome members of pop sensation Take That into her home died after a long battle with alcoholism, a coroner ruled.

Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of death as a result of abuse of a dependent drug at Dudley Coroners Court on Helen Baker, who won the Miss Stourbridge Crystal title in 1995.

Mother-of-one Miss Baker, aged 35, of Ragees Road, Kingswinford, was found dead at home on December 18, an inquest heard.

Her mother, Margaret, who has taken in Miss Baker's daughter, Saskia, aged 10, said they knew of her drinking for about six years but only realised the extent after her death.

### Damage

She said bank statements over 12 months showed Miss Baker got through about one 1.5litre bottle of vodka a day.

She was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy – or nerve damage – in August 2009, which left her partially disabled. Pathologist Dr Sixto Batitang said her liver was five times the size of a normal, healthy one and had been hard, which was a common symptom of cirrhosis.

The level of alcohol in her body was 92mg per 100ml of blood – slightly over the maximum legal driving limit of 80mg. "The only thing I can put her death down to is that she went into acute liver failure," he said.

Friends previously said she dated a friend of Robbie Williams and became friendly with the star and other Take That members, who would call at her home.

## New gym plan wins backing

WORK on a new gym as part of a £1million revamp at Stourbridge College is scheduled to begin next month.

A planning application to transform a courtyard and the old staff dining room into a new development for students and staff to work out has been given approval by bosses at Dudley Council.

The college said it was now going through the contractor tender process and hoped to start work in May.

## Restoration fears over delay on scheme to turn historic foundry into health centre

ONE of the Black Country's "most important" buildings is in severe danger of falling beyond repair if urgent action is not taken soon, campaigners have warned.

The grade II listed Foster and Rastrick Foundry site in Lowndes Road, Stourbridge, has stood empty for more than eight years, during which time it has been repeatedly targeted by vandals.

Landowners Quadrant Land Partnership won approval to transform it into a medical complex at the beginning of last year – but there has been no sign of progress.

The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust has now completed a report into alternative uses, which will be revealed in May.

Ward councillor Malcolm Knowles said residents were "extremely concerned" about the state of the building. "It needs something done as soon as possible. This is part of Stourbridge's heritage – a very



At risk – the listed Foster and Rastrick Foundry

important part – and it's in danger of getting into so bad a state it can't be restored. We need to look after it." The foundry is one of the area's few grade II listed

buildings, and is one of five listed buildings on the site.

It has been standing empty since 2003 and has been on English Heritage's register as being seriously at risk since 1999.

English Heritage spokeswoman Helen Bowman added: "We share the concerns of local people and the council about the condition of the building and are anxious to see it brought back into use as soon as possible."

The 30,000-sq ft healthcare complex would be named The Lion Medical Centre in recognition of the foundry having manufactured the first steam locomotive to run on rails in America in 1829, known by as the "Stourbridge Lion".

A spokeswoman for property developers Quadrant Land Partnership, of Malt Mill Lane, Halesowen, said "the company did not wish to make a comment at this time".

## University scholarship for student

HALESOWEN College A-level student April-Faith Russell is celebrating after being awarded a £2,500 scholarship to do her dream course at Bangor University.

The 18-year-old will be studying for a degree in creative studies including media, journalism and photography from October.

She is the first student from the college to be awarded a scholarship at the university. They are given to only four students across the UK every year.

April-Faith, from Oldbury, is studying English literature, media and ICT. She said: "I am absolutely delighted to have received this scholarship."

# URGENT CALL ON SAFETY REPAIRS

A FRESH call has been made for urgent safety work to be carried out on a wall feared to be in danger of collapse on a busy main road in Brierley Hill.

Concrete blocks were put alongside a 300ft stretch of wall more than 18 months ago because of concerns it was unstable.

Estimates for repairs were in the region of £3 million when the problem came to light about two years ago. A bid was made for cash from Advantage West Midlands.

But the organisation is being wound up this year to be replaced by Creative England, leaving it unclear where funding will come from.

A report drawn up by Dudley Council engineers said the main section of wall in Church Street supported massive earth pressures from a man-made terraced embankment sloping down from Church Hill and the Brierley Hill War Memorial above.

Ward councillor Zafar Islam said proposals should be on the

table to tackle the issue before it gets more serious.

"We need to find some money for this because it has been assessed as being in need to repair just to stabilise it so it is not at risk," he said.

"This is an important area because many people go to visit the war memorial and it is the centre of the commemorations during Remembrance Day when the town gathers to pay its respects. We don't want this to become a political issue and we have had assurances from Councillor Angus Adams that the issue will be looked at."

### Buffer

Church Hill leads up from near the junction for the Brierley Hill bypass, Venture Way, up and around the memorial into Seager's Lane.

The row of concrete blocks stretches along the pavement and past a bus stop to act as a buffer in case the wall starts to collapse.

Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "We are monitoring the situation and will carry out minor safety works in the coming weeks in order to remove any loose coping bricks."



Driver Keith Mellor happy the Black Country Living Museum trams are running again

## Museum trams back on track following theft

HISTORIC trams are back up and running at the Black Country Living Museum following months of restoration work after part of the overhead power cable was stolen by metal thieves.

The popular trams and trolley buses at the Tipton Road site were derailed after raiders struck the site in January while the power was off. A vintage coach has been used in place of the trams since the theft.

### Security

But the popular trams are again transporting visitors around the museum grounds.

Museum spokeswoman Fiona Carding said: "Extensive work has now been carried out to both the tram and tracks and the copper wiring has been replaced. Systems are in place to give the museum around the clock security."

Advice on the repairs was sought from Beamish Museum in County Durham, which also has an historic tram line. The museum is not revealing the cost.

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## University rankings

SIX of the region's eight universities have fallen down the national rankings, according to The Complete University Guide.

Highest ranked in the West Midlands was Warwick at eighth. Last year it was seventh.

Second best in the region was Birmingham University, ranked 22nd – up from 23 in 2010. Aston was placed at 25, compared to 17 last year. Keele was at 44, down one place from 43 last year.

Birmingham City was at 66, down from 58. Staffordshire came 99 – from 80 last year. The lowest ranked was Worcester at 106th – down from 102 in 2010.

Wolverhampton has chosen not to be included in league tables.

## Smartcard readers headache for Centro

MORE than 200 hi-tech smartcard readers installed in thousands of West Midlands buses as part of a £14 million scheme do not work, it has emerged.

Transport authority Centro has admitted 8.5 per cent of the 2,500 readers installed in buses have stopped working at different times.

The card readers are currently used by pensioners who swipe their bus passes across them but they will be extended by the end of the year to automatically deduct passenger fares from a pre-

paid account. Bus companies then use the records to claim reimbursement from Centro for carrying people who are allowed to use buses for free.

The system is meant to be extended on to London Midland trains as well and will eventually become similar to London's Oyster cards where the correct fare is automatically calculated.

## Covered

But at a meeting of the transport authority last week, Wolverhampton councillor Judith Rowley said she had received reports that one machine had even been covered over with a bag.

James Aspinall, Centro finance director, said 8.5 per cent of the network was not being read all of the time.

"Operators can press a button where it is recognised that there has been a failure and can still get paid," he said. If there is a plastic bag on the machine they won't get paid for that."

Councillor Rowley said: "This is a huge issue for public confidence. If it isn't working properly then we need to review funding."

"It's happening on nearly 10 per cent of the buses that is quite a lot of money that has been spent for something that is not working."

## Appeal on system for plans deal spending

SPENDING on roads, parks and libraries in Dudley using cash from developers should be made more transparent, it has been claimed.

Companies wanting planning permission to build in the borough can be asked to help with local infrastructure before they secure the go-ahead. Councillors claim they are not always sure where the money has been spent.

At last week's Dudley Council meeting, Councillor David Sparks, said he would welcome a transparent system.

## Nearly 700 have a say on homes plan

MORE than 680 people have spoken out over plans to build up to 400 homes on land near Stourbridge.

A 54-acre site off the A456 Kidderminster to Birmingham Road has been earmarked for development by Bromsgrove District Council.

The land is between Western Road, Hagley, and the island at the junction of the A456 with the A491. Plans for the future of the site are contained within the council's core strategy. It says it is suitable for at least 219 properties and could accommodate up to 400 of varying sizes.

No specific plans have been drawn up yet but the council is hoping to attract investment from private developers.

The council has been asking the public about the strategy which includes proposals to build 4,000 dwellings between now and

2021. A 12-week public consultation ended on April 15.

Council chiefs will sift through the replies before deciding on the site's future.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella, who is also a district councillor, said: "People are concerned about the continued development in Hagley."

## Business

"People are concerned the schools won't be able to take more pupils, the capacity of the roads and proposals for business, because anything added in the area would impact existing businesses."

The Worcestershire Association of School Governors is objecting to the designation of the 54-acre site. The association chairman Malcolm Richards said schools in Hagley would be "bursting at the seams" if the plans went ahead.

## Thieves took wire and flooring in raid on school

THIEVES stole more than £2,000 worth of flooring, wiring and furniture from a disused building at a Black Country school, a court heard.

Daniel Fellows, 19, and Michael Fisher, 21, targeted a former classroom block at Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

Children were playing football on a nearby pitch while the pair struck in broad daylight on a Saturday afternoon, raiding the building, Dudley Magistrates Court was told. They then loaded the items into the back of a white Ford Transit van and drove off – but were pulled over by police

after being spotted by a passer-by. Fellows, of Kingsford Lane, Kinver, and Fisher, of Lodge Crescent, Netherton, both originally pleaded not guilty to a charge each of theft.

But they changed their pleas before last week's scheduled trial – and instead were sentenced for the offences.

The pair, who are both unemployed, admitted taking blue industrial flooring, a wooden cabinet and a roll of cable worth a total of £2,200.

Mr Barry Sealeaf, prosecuting, said they had climbed over a fence into the derelict property and parked the van on the road outside. Mr

## London to Paris cycle challenge



Sheena and Robert Di Franco prepare for their charity London to Paris bike ride

A MOTHER and son team with next to no cycling experience are preparing to use pedal power to generate a charity cash.

Sheena Di Franco last saddled up – on a tricycle – when she was nine while son Robert, aged 21, has never taken to two wheels.

However, this summer the pair, of Reynolds Close, Swindon, will cycle 300 miles from the River Thames to the Eiffel Tower. Fifty-two-year-old Sheena, a finance officer at St Edmund's Catholic School in Wolver-

hampton, and administration worker Robert hope to raise £2,000 for the Action Heart unit at Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley.

Sheena said: "The only bike riding I have done was on a tricycle when I was nine-years-old, so this is a very big challenge."

They will set off from London on August 25 and are scheduled to reach Paris on August 28. Any sponsors can write to Mrs S Di Franco, 8 Reynolds Close, Swindon, DY3 4NQ or call 01384 288682.

## Stream pathway is complete

A PATHWAY near a Sandwell nature haven has been replaced after the previous route eroded.

The new pathway, in Norman Road, has now been completed near the bridge on The Mill Brook after its predecessor began to fall away into the stream.

Councillor Steven Frear welcomed the work. He said: "It was an issue we raised in 2008 when we were working on the major clean-up of the brook."

## Library enjoys a record success

A RECORD number of people visited Sandwell libraries last year – an increase of five per cent on the previous year.

Visits to borough libraries were recorded at a massive 1,517,195 in the financial year 2010/11. It is only the second time that 1.5 million visits have been achieved. The first time was in 2005/6. It is the highest visitor figures since records were first kept 15 years ago.

The libraries offer a range of free activities for all ages.

Cabinet member for adult social care Councillor Linda Horton said: "The numbers speak for themselves."

"Our libraries have moved with the times and offer a lot more than the traditional book service."

## Family

"They are also designed now to cater for all of the family, whatever the age. Our libraries have moved with the times and that is why visitor figures are going up."

## Unplanned

Mr John McCormack, defending for Fellows, said: "These were scrap items that were left around in a void building so their value should not be over-estimated."

Mr Parns Hayre, defending for Fisher, said the theft was "unplanned" and "on the spur of the moment."

He added: "Even though the building was derelict they do now realise that this property belongs to someone."

The pair were each given 12-month community orders and told to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work each. They must also each pay £100 costs.

## Big Day parking charges waived

PARKING charges in council-run car parks in Dudley will be waived on the day of the royal wedding.

Most other authorities in the West Midlands are waiving the charges because it is a public holiday but in Sandwell the charges will stay in place.

Wolverhampton City Council has announced that parking will be free at all its car parks and on street parking bays, with the exception of the Civic Centre car park, on the wedding day, tomorrow (Friday, April 29).

Dudley Council is waiving all its parking charges.

## Pleased

However, local authorities in Sandwell, Stafford and Wyre Forest are not lifting charges.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said today: "We are treating it the same as any other bank holiday."

Steve Woodward, Wolverhampton City Council's head of street scene services, said: "The royal wedding is classed as a public holiday rather than a bank holiday, and the city council has traditionally always charged for parking as normal on a public holiday."

"However, we are pleased to announce we have chosen to waive fees on this occasion."

The free parking will be available between 5am on Friday, April 29, until 5am on Saturday, April 30.

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## John hopes songs will make melody



Songwriter John Woolridge who is looking for someone to sing his latest work

SONGWRITER John Woolridge is hoping to strike the right chord with his latest work as he hunts for someone to help bring his words to life. The retired probation officer from Colesey has written two songs and is now hoping to find either a choir or an individual singer to perform them.

One of the tunes is called Love and Prayers We Give, which is a song for Eastertide. The other is called For Queen and Country, which Mr Woolridge says is "a tribute to our armed forces."

### Recorded

Mr Woolridge has been writing songs as a hobby for more than 30 years and last year one of his tunes – Song for Heroes – was recorded by Dudley schoolgirl Katie Teitge to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity.

Grandfather Mr Woolridge said "I have written over 150 songs of all types. I am currently awaiting knee replacement surgery but luckily this does not stop me writing."

Anyone interested can contact Mr Woolridge on 07948 412870.

## Age limit rule could change

A MINIMUM age limit of 60 is to be introduced on a Tipton housing estate following a three-year pilot project.

Pensioners officially took over management of The Bosobel, Sandwell, last year. The age limit for residents could be lowered to 55 in the future if properties on Sandwell's first "grey estate" become difficult to rent.

The estate is made up of homes managed and run by pensioners, independently of the council. The pilot scheme was introduced in 2007. Sandwell Council's cabinet member for

housing is now set to officially back the scheme – restricting the estate to the over 60s, although a condition is expected to be imposed, allowing the age limit to be reduced to 55 if there are problems filling the homes.

The Bosobel Estate is made up of 127 homes, including nine bungalows and 118 flats. Council officers are recommending that the age limit is reduced to 55, where properties become hard to rent.

The new plans will be formally adopted on May 1 this year, if passed at a meeting on today (April 28)

## Threatened car park brought in £196,000

A CAR park in Stourbridge which will be demolished as part of plans to build a Tesco in the town centre made £196,000 last year for Dudley Council.

The 458-space Bell Street multi-story will make way for the £50million project, creating new shops and a 60,000 sq ft Tesco at the Crown Centre.

Drivers will be directed to other car parks but no additional spaces will be provided as council chiefs say there is enough space at sites such as the Ryemarket multi-storey, Church Street

and Birmingham Street. Dudley Council Council spokeswoman Katherine Finney said: "The Bell Street multi-storey is one of many car parks in Stourbridge and it generated £196,000 during the last year."

### Capacity

"When the car park closes we will be notifying users of other council car parks nearby. The town will be open for business throughout the works and other council car parks such as Church Street and Birmingham Street also have spare capacity." She added: "All

these car parks, in addition to on-street parking, will offer necessary space to motorists while the regeneration work takes place."

But traders say they are worried there will not be enough parking spaces during the work.

As part of the development, more than 500 car parking spaces will be created in a two-level car park under the Crown Centre.

Tesco hopes the superstore and centre will be opening its doors by Christmas 2012. Around 400 new full and part time jobs are expected to be created.

## Food firm seeking 250 new workers

RECRUITMENT for the first workers at a firm's new £28 million development will start next month.

East End Foods is building a cash and carry warehouse and hotel on the site of the old HP Sauce factory in Birmingham.

The scheme will create 250 jobs, and recruitment for the first 100 posts will be from mid-May until June.

Portable buildings will be put up at the site so that interviews for the first batch of jobs, which will be in the warehouse, can take place. Director Paul

Wouhra said: "We will be looking for a huge array of workers from managers, to forklift truck drivers to security and check-out staff."

"We believe it will give a little bit of confidence to the business community."

### Profits

"We're proud that we're looking to recruit when so many businesses are axing staff."

The development on land off Lichfield Road, Park Lane and Upper Thomas Street in Aston is expected to increase the firm's annual profits by almost

£50m. "We feel very good about the project so far," said Mr Wouhra. "Everything is on schedule."

"There have been a few obstructions in the ground – about 30 tonnes of concrete had to be smashed up before we could put in our own foundations – but apart from that it has been fine."

The warehouse, which should be finished in September, is expected to handle 450 transactions per day.

Work on the 15-storey luxury 200-room hotel is expected to start next year.

A further 150 workers will then be recruited.

# Projects downgraded in masterplan for town

AS SCHEME to redevelop an ailing part of Dudley's town centre has been put on hold to give priority to other projects, it has been revealed.

Plans to revamp the area round the Flood Street car parks was originally among the first phases in a masterplan of improvements for the town centre. But Dudley Council's regeneration chief Councillor Les Jones admitted last week it was "more realistic" to focus on other parts of the plan, especially because of the present financial climate.

The decision was made following talks with independent firm New Heritage Regeneration Limited, which is overseeing improvements to the town.

Schemes such as improvements to Dudley Market Place and the construction of a supermarket in Castle Street have now been given a higher priority.

Councillor Jones, cabinet member for regeneration, said Flood Street would still be redeveloped but it was no longer among the first phases of the development plan.

He said changes had also been made to the plans for Flood Street since the masterplan was first published.

Details have not been finalised but redevelopment is expected to focus on a mix of shops, houses and car parking when the work does go ahead.

Developments would be focused around the car park area to try and bring more people into that part of the town centre.

### Forward

Councillor Jones said the changes had been necessary to ensure some improvements to the town centre got off the ground.

"If we had not been flexible with the masterplan there was a serious risk that no work at all would have taken place in the town centre," he said.

"Rather than let this happen it was decided to bring forward some of the projects which were more realistic of making happen in the present economic climate. This does mean Flood Street is a lower priority at the moment but this could change quickly."

"If an opportunity were to come along we would certainly look at it."

## Charity night coins in £1,300

A CHARITY night in Dudley has raised over £1,317 to provide support for families affected by cot death. The event took place last Saturday at The Brambles, Priory House, Dudley, and was organised by owners Lesley and Alan Willett in memory of their great nephew Harrison James Marsh who died in his cot five years ago. Money was raised for CONI (Care Of Next Infant) who provide monitors used to measure infant heart rates and breathing.

## Waste burner is sanctioned

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a waste-burning plant in Hartlebury have moved closer after the Environmental Agency said it would not pose a health risk.

The £120 million project has been given an environmental permit meaning developers Mercia Waste are now just waiting for final approval from the Government before it can go ahead.

The development had already secured planning permission from Worcestershire County Council but

the scheme also needed the permit from the Environment Agency.

Even though that has now been granted it still needs the final go-ahead from Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles.

Mr Pickles initially had 21 days to call in the plans but it emerged that a direction has been delayed the deadline to an unknown date, meaning the county council cannot formally grant planning permission until it hears back from Mr Pickles.

## Paul, 48, is world record breaker



Pc Paul Swan with his certificate for becoming a marathon world record holder

WHEN Black Country bobby Paul Swan starts to give chase, crooks will have a world record runner breathing down their necks.

Emergency response officer Pc Swan is the fastest man ever to complete the London Marathon dressed in full police uniform. Based at Walsall police station, Pc Swan crossed the line in under three hours and 10 minutes – smashing the previous record by more than an hour.

The 48-year-old was clad in uniform, including helmet, stab vest, handcuffs and baton. The previous best time for the 26.2 mile distance was four hours 48 minutes.

Describing the moment he crossed the finish line on Sunday after three hours, nine minutes and 52 seconds, Pc Swan said: "Someone from the Guinness Book of Records grabbed me and literally told me then and there that I had broken the record. I was absolutely over the moon to have done it. I felt really good, but it wasn't easy, especially with all I had to carry."

The police officer managed to raise more than £2,000 for Cancer Research UK, after his wife, Janice, 46, and father, Derek, 75, were diagnosed with cancer. Janice got the all-clear before Christmas after surgery to remove a melanoma.

Pc Swan said he owed the lack of blisters from his helmet to a sponge wedged into it.

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## £10,000 revamp for zoo enclosure

A HISTORIC Tecton building at Dudley Zoo has been brought back into full use thanks to a £10,000 revamp.

Around 20 members of staff were drafted in to transform two sections of the iconic Tecton triple complex.

It is one of 12 concrete modernist structures at the attraction. Designed by Russian architect Berthold Lubetkin and constructed between 1935 and the zoo's opening in May 1937, they have been listed as buildings of special architectural or historical interest.

They were given World Monuments Fund status in 2009 as being of international significance.

### Enclosures

The complex originally provided a trio of enclosures for lions on the right, polar bears in the centre and tigers on the left, but the central area has remained empty for years after polar bears were removed from the animal collection in the 1980s.

The lions were also moved with 33-year-old Asiatic black bear, Inca, taking their place.

As a result of the work Inca will be moving into the central area while Gelada baboons, which are due to arrive in the next few weeks, will be taking over her former enclosure.

The third section is home to newly-arrived Amur tiger, Makari.

## Homes firm is bee-ing bug friendly

A HOUSE building firm is planting honeysuckles, foxgloves, poppies, lavender and catmint on its new £17 million housing development in Walsall in a bid to boost Britain's bee population.

Halesowen-based firm Barratt West Midlands has added the plants to its development at The Brides, Bell Lane, Bloxwich.

The company began the project to build 108 homes on the seven-acre former home of Bloxwich Engineering last August.

Senior sales manager Stephen Cleveley said: "We hope our initiative will raise awareness of how important the bee is in the British garden and encourage others to provide more habitat and forage at their own homes."



Dudley born glass artist Terri Colledge at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge

## Hard times but people are still willing to pay for classy glass

BLACK Country glass artist Terri Colledge is busy crafting classy pieces for collectors - who are still willing to invest despite hard economic times.

Grandmother Terri, aged 51, of Ettingshall Road, Coseley, is settling into her new business premises at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Ambicote, Stourbridge.

She moved there from her previous base at Okra Glass studios in Queen Street, Wordsley, because "the Ruskin Centre is the place to be if you work in glass."

Terri specialises in cameo glass carving and enamel painting.

Her cameo pieces sell for more than £1,400 for a perfume bottle or vase - but she says there is no shortage of people who want to buy.

## Two-year timetable to reopen parkland

PARKLAND surrounding an 18th century Midland stately home could be reopened to the public within two years in a bid to raise vital funds for its upkeep.

Lord Cobham, whose family has owned the Hagley Hall and its 350-acre estate for more than 250 years, says he has long held ambitions to reopen the park to visitors. It was closed to the public by the previous Lord Cobham, John Lyttelton, in the mid-1980s following a spate of vandal attacks. Now the 12th viscount Cobham, Christopher Lyttelton, says reopening it is a priority.

He has begun talks with conservationists about the viability of the move.

Lord Cobham wants to create a series of walks around the park, which straddles the A456 Birmingham Road, near Stourbridge.

Proposals involve some landscaping and creation of areas suitable for car parking. No firm details have been decided yet but Lord Cobham wants plans on the table within the next 12 months.

"I'm extremely anxious to get the plan underway as soon as possible," said Lord Cobham. "We are drawing up a conservation plan for the park with the aim of getting the park open, hopefully next year although it's more likely to be the year after."

### Consider

"There are a number of things that we have to consider as it is not simply the case that we can reopen the park straight away. We have to look at issues such as where people are going to park and access to the park itself."

Plans should be drawn up by July.

## More to see 100th birthday in future

MORE than a quarter of children aged 16 and under can expect to see their 100th birthday, according to Government figures.

The extraordinary figure highlights a massive social change, with today's children likely to survive far longer than their parents or grandparents. Some 3.3 million of youngsters, or 26.8 per cent, are set to become centenarians. And taking other age groups into consideration, it is predicted 11m people will reach the landmark.

### Warned

Of those, 5.4m are between 17 and 50, 1.4m aged 51 to 65 and more than 900,000 are already over 65.

Experts warned children may live to 100, but they will not get their State pension until they are "70 or beyond".

The State pension age is rising to 66 for both men and women by 2020, and the Government has warned it will continue to rise.

Pensions minister Steve Webb said the estimates, based on data from the Office for National Statistics, highlighted the fact that in future people could be spending over a third of their lives in retirement. "That's why we're reforming the state pension system."

## Relatives donate £13,000

RELATIVES of a former Black Country business leader who died after a 15-year battle with cancer have donated £1,300 to the hospital that cared for him.

Stuart Eaton, from Sedgley, died in November last year aged 82. Mr Eaton, described as an inspirational, devoted family man, had been told two months before that the cancer, which had spread to his lungs, was terminal shortly after celebrating 60 years of marriage to his childhood sweetheart.

Hundreds attended his funeral and a thanksgiving service and following donations £1,300 was raised, which has gone to the urology department at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

# Anger over plans to put 50ft mast next to park

PLANS to erect a 50ft mobile phone mast next to a park and a Halesowen school have sparked anger among residents.

Vodafone has applied to replace an existing 30ft mast next to Huntingtree Primary and Huntingtree Park.

Locals claim the current mast is a blot on the landscape and the new one would be "an even bigger eyesore". More than 100 people signed a petition against the original plans but they were eventually given the go-ahead by the planning inspectorate in

Bristol. Residents are now braced for another battle to stop the new mast being put up.

They are concerned about potential health risks to pupils at the school and families visiting the park.

Outdoor gym equipment, a multi-use games area and a community building were installed at the park as part of Dudley Council's £4.5m battle against childhood obesity. It also has two healthy town park rangers, paid up to £19,000 a year each.

Gavin Dring, of Bournes Hill, said: "Am I the only person who sees the irony of spending thousands of pounds building a community health hub, then installing a 15-metre high super powerful 3G mobile phone mast directly in front of it?"

"It's going to be in front of a recreational area for children and a primary school."

"These masts are huge industrial-looking eyesores and will not be in keeping with the newly-refurbished beauty spot."

"Areas that should be considered are large industrial estates that already have furniture of a similar nature."

### Proof

Ward councillor Ken Turner, who lives in Huntingtree Road, said the existing mast was already too close to the school. He added he wants "cast-iron proof" there were no health risks.

Vodafone said: "Base stations are low powered devices which only cover approximately half a mile in radius and therefore we have to put base stations close to our customers."

"We need to improve the 3G coverage to our customers in Hasbury."

## Open verdict on wife's death

A GRANDMOTHER of three plunged to her death from a hotel balcony while her husband slept during a holiday to Tenerife, an inquest heard.

Mystery still surrounds the circumstances of the tragedy.

The inquest on Carol Smith, aged 65, was held at Smethwick Coroner's Court last week. Coroner Mr Robin Balmain recorded an open verdict, saying there was no conclusive evidence to say whether Mrs Smith had committed suicide or been the victim of a tragic accident.

Her husband Kenneth, aged 66, of Moyle Drive, Halesowen, said they would have celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary next month. He said his wife had

suffered with depression on and off for more than 20 years.

He told the hearing on the day of her death, April 2, he had suffered an attack of sickness and lay down on his bed to take a nap, with his wife lying next to him.

"When I woke up, I remember, I saw that she wasn't by me. I thought she must be out on the balcony," he said.

### Certificate

"Then I looked over and I could see a crowd of people and someone on the floor and I just knew."

"I shouted 'no' and ran downstairs."

Mr Balmain organised for an interim death certificate to be issued, as the register office in England cannot register a death which happens overseas.

## Close shave for daring Donna



Donna Jeavons getting her head shaved at Dudley Sports and Social Club



Donna before the shave

A BLACK Country charity worker is now sporting a radical new hairdo after getting her head shaved for a good cause.

Donna Jeavons, aged 40, raised £250 in sponsorship for the Langstone Society, where she works as a Human Resources adviser.

The charity, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, runs social clubs in the Dudley borough for people with learning disabilities.

It also has three care homes, in Dudley, Halesowen and Lower Gornal. Mrs Jeavons, of Himley Road, Dudley, said she wanted to raise as much money as possible and felt a head shave would grab people's attention.

A crowd of friends gathered at Dudley Sports and Social Club to see her locks fall.

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All set for the Black Country printing firm merger, from left, Ruth Coleridge, of Hawkins Hutton; James Barwell, Husselsworks; Nic Beales, Dudley Print; and Tony Seaton, from Blue Sky Corporate Finance.

## Courting print businesses 'marry' to improve service

TWO Black Country printing firms have joined forces in a merger overseen by Dudley-based corporate law firm Hawkins Hutton.

Dudley Print, based in Netherton, and Husselsworks, which operates from Halesowen, have merged to create a more efficient and streamlined operation.

The combined business will be able to offer a more comprehensive service to clients covering both short-run digital printing applications and the more complex, larger print processes and runs.

The owners James Barwell of Husselsworks and Nic Beales of Dudley Print will be joint directors and shareholders of the new business.

"We have been courting each other for some time, so you could say it's been a very long engagement before the marriage," said James.

Both companies have been operating for more than two decades, each building up a loyal customer-base.

### Range

The plan is for the two arms of the combined company to now offer their full range of services, both digital and traditional printing, to both sets of customers.

James Barwell said the business would retain both sets of employees, with no redundancies, and was hoping to be in a position to create new jobs as

the business grew in the future. Colin Rodrigues, corporate partner at Hawkins Hutton, was responsible for advising the directors on the structure of the new business, including all Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations for staff.

"The combined business will bring about a number of efficiencies, but importantly it will enable the company to offer a much broader range of printing and design services to clients across the region," said Colin Rodrigues.

Tony Seaton, of Blue Sky Corporate Finance Limited, the lead corporate finance advisor, said: "What will emerge from the amalgamation of the two companies is a stronger company, that will be capable of competing on more levels with their larger regional competitors."

## Crime figures blow to region

ROBBERIES rose by 17 per cent and burglaries by 13 per cent as West Midlands Police became the only force in the country to record a rise in crime, latest figures reveal.

There were 214,976 crimes in the region in the year to December 2010, according to the Home Office.

They included 8,520 robberies and 33,441 burglaries, of which 19,401 were home burglaries, an increase of 21 per cent.

Vehicle crime was also up by seven per cent, other thefts by 13 per cent and fraud and forgery by 27 per cent. Overall crime in the West Midlands rose by one per cent – compared to a six per cent drop across England and Wales.

### Tumbled

Some crime in the region has fallen, including drug offences, which were slashed by 18 per cent. Violent crime fell by 10 per cent and sexual offences by eight per cent. Incidents of criminal damage also tumbled by nine per cent.

The figures offer an indication of the coalition Government's record on crime for its first eight months. West Midlands Police has been among the biggest hit by Government cuts, which has seen a recruitment freeze and the imposed retirement of experienced officers.

## Palace date for Chloe, 13

TIPTON schoolgirl Chloe Howells met the Queen after finishing runner-up in a Blue Peter competition. The 13-year-old designed an emblem to celebrate Her Majesty's diamond jubilee.

"I never dreamed I would meet The Queen. 'I'm very proud,' she said."

Chloe and her mother Ann, caught the train to the BBC studios in London and were taken to Buckingham Palace, where they were given a guided tour. On meeting the monarch, Chloe said: "She was really nice. She told me my design was very modern."

## Work on depot to end next month

WORK on a new £1million recycling depot in Dudley will be completed next month, it has been announced.

It is being built on the site of a former BT building between Blowers Green Road and the Dudley Southern Bypass.

It will deal with cans, plastics, bottles, paper and cardboard.

Original proposals were approved by councillors last year to allow works to begin on the land in January.

But these were halted after an underground cable was found close to the new location.

### Progress

An application then had to be brought before council planners to move the offices 2ft or 600mm which was given the go-ahead in February.

About 41,000 tons of material is expected to pass through the depot a year.

A 47-space car park is being built next to the site along with an office, mess and shower room.

Dudley Council spokesman Chris Howes said: "We are on site and making good progress on the recycling depot."

"We expected work to be completed next month."

"When complete, the new £1million facility will provide the council with a facility to store and sort materials to be recycled including plastic bottles, cardboard, glass, paper and cans."

# Hospital in challenge on council parking bid

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital is fighting council plans to stop patients, staff and visitors parking on car-clogged roads nearby, it has been revealed.

Dudley Council has been consulting on proposals to tackle problems caused by parking in streets nearby.

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Founda-

tion Trust chief executive Paula Clark said she did not feel plans to restrict on-road parking would solve problems.

Residents say drivers visiting the hospital clog surrounding streets, despite a 691-space car park opening.

The council's transport chief said he was "surprised" at Mrs Clark's reaction as "the parking problems are caused by people at the hospital".

## 10,000 expected for vehicle show

VINTAGE car enthusiasts will descend on Sandwell Valley Country Park for Sandwell Council's 33rd Historic Vehicle and Transport Show.

Crowds of over 10,000 are expected to the free event on Sunday, May 8.

Over 500 vehicles will be on show, dating back to the 1920s and including a 1924 Rolls Royce Cabriolet and a 1920 Triumph Motorcycle.

American cars, commercial vehicles, buses and

motorcycles will compete for the 48 awards on offer.

Other attractions include an arena with the Piston Ring Youth Motorcycle Display Team, autjumble, crafts, fair, market and trade stands.

A regular bus service will run to the showground from West Bromwich Bus Station, with free car parking available in the town centre. Disabled parking will be close at hand.

Up to 50 extra spaces may be made available as soil is moved from behind the new car park – but a planning application must go in first.

Council chiefs want parking restrictions to deter drivers from leaving vehicles in streets.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transport, said: "The hospital is arguing it can rectify the situation itself but we have been waiting for a long time and it doesn't seem to be happening."

"We will look at the objection but if it is not justified we will just take it as part of the consultation."

Plans include restricted access and waiting restrictions on neighbouring roads.

## Non-smoker William hits 101



William Davies celebrates his 101st birthday with family and friends in Himley

IT WAS three cheers for William Davies who rolled back the years to reminisce with family and friends at his 101st birthday party.

He celebrated the landmark occasion at the Himley Hotel, in School Road, Himley, at a gathering organised by niece his June Dovey, aged 74, and nephew Charles Davies, 79.

Mr Davies clocked up a host of jobs from postman to factory worker but said some of his happiest years were spent helping his wife Ethel run their grocery shops in Nock

Street, Tipton. Mr Davies – who had two brothers and four sisters – was raised in Holland Street, Tipton, and attended Ocker Hill School before leaving to work at a fixtures and fittings manufacturer in Broadway Road, Wednesbury.

He married Ethel in Coseley in June 1937 and they were wed for 63 years before her death in 1999.

Mr Davies now lives in sheltered housing in Tipton.

Of his health he said: "I've always tried to look after myself, I only tried smoking once and didn't like it."

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# £1.9m work on Baylies started

Lottery cash is saviour of hall



Work begins at the historic Baylies Hall in Tower Street, Dudley. Below: Auctioneer Chris Aston on the roof of the building and a picture from 1901, when it was home to a charity school

A LANDMARK 19th century hall in Dudley town centre will be restored to its former glory as part of a £1.9million redevelopment scheme.

Repairs will be made to the the Grade II listed Baylies Hall, Tower Street, which was once a charity school and is now the home to long-standing auctioneers Aston's.

Work forms part of a project aimed at rejuvenating key historic buildings in the town centre. Architectural features and stone sculptures outside will be repaired and railings, which were the original boundary, will be reinstated.

Funding will come from Heritage Lottery Fund's townscape heritage initiative scheme, English Heritage and Dudley Council.

Chris Aston, owner of Aston's Auctioneers and Valuers, said: "We are delighted to receive the grant to restore our building."

"Had it not been for the townscape heritage initiative pro-

gramme we would have been forced to look for new premises, as the cost of proper restoration would have been prohibitive.

## Excited

"We are now excited for the works to be finished so that our staff and customers can enjoy the hall in all its glory and carry on

working here for decades to come." Dudley Council's director of urban environment John Millar said: "Baylies Hall is a beautiful town centre building that we want to restore and preserve for future generations." Baylies Hall dates back to 1824 when it was built to house Baylies Charity School.

The owners of a 19th century hall in Dudley town centre have said they had begun searching before a lottery grant helped secure the future of the building.

Chris Aston, director of family firm Aston's Auctioneers, said running repairs bills were mounting for the Grade II listed Baylies Hall.

Now restoration works are getting underway thanks to a £1.9 million scheme organised by Heritage Lottery Fund's townscape heritage initiative scheme, English Heritage and Dudley Council.

Mr Aston, aged 27, said the company had already spent £20,000 in architect fees in a bid to identify the numerous issues which needed attention on the building on Tower Street.

But when quango Advantage West Midlands withdrew support for original refurbishment plans a few months ago, Mr Aston said the firm had to turn its focus on finding a new base.

"We really didn't want to leave the town centre but when the council said that there would be more money available we were delighted."

Works are expected to take around seven months to complete with scaffolding already up around the building.

Original features such as the Roman numerals on the front of the building will stay as part of the works.

# How New York firm made its Marx over in Dudley

AUCTIONEERS are trying to discover more about children's toys that were manufactured by an American toymaker at its Dudley factory before the Second World War.

The intricate toys were made by workers at Louis Marx and Co Ltd which had a base in Hall Street, Dudley, around 100 years ago.

The firm's headquarters were in New York but there was also a European base in the Black Country, believed to have been an export hub.

Chris Aston, a director at Dudley-based toy specialists Aston's Auctioneers, discovered the toys for sale at a recent auction.

One of his purchases is called a Marx Merry-maker, a clockwork toy with moving mice thought to have been produced in the 1930s.

## Trademark

It has a trademark on the back which gives Dudley as its place of manufacture.

Mr Aston, aged 27, bought the toy for around £500 and hopes to find out more about Louis Marx and Co Ltd to create an exhibition about the toymaker at his auction house in Tower Street.

He also brought an early car toy called a Marx Streamline Speedway, an electric car track racing game in its packaging.

"We thought they were a great find because Louis Marx was a well-known toy manufacturer in America," he said.

"Not many people know it had a factory in Dudley."

"They are quite rare as there are many toys produced by the firm on the market from the 1960s and 1970s but not many from pre-war and made in Dudley."

"We would love to find out more about their origin."

Anyone with any information can call 01384 250220 or visit [www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk](http://www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk)



Auctioneer Chris Aston with the clockwork toy



The toy is incredibly detailed



It bears the Marx brand name

# Club gets to grips with plan

A JUDO CLUB that has produced Olympic hopefuls is reviving its plans for a new centre in Kidderminster – after battling through red tape and funding problems for three years.

Samurai Judo Club in Kidderminster wants to construct a new base on disused tennis courts at Gilt Edge Social Club in Zortech Avenue. The project has been hit by delays since

being given planning permission in April 2009 – so a new application has now been made for a scaled-down building.

## Saving

The club, which has run for 30 years, has seen membership rocket to 140 and has outgrown its current premises at an industrial unit in Lisle Avenue, Kidderminster.

Funding problems have seen the planned building reduced in size. It will now be just one storey instead of two with a cost of £230,000 – a saving of £100,000.

There is scope for the club to be extended in the future.

Chief coach Andrew Haffner said the new premises could be up by the autumn. Members include London 2012 Olympics hopeful Kate Walker.

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## Pledge to carry on with purge

COUNCIL bosses will continue seizing horses from the streets of Sandwell. It follows seizures of two animals recently from the Weddell Wynd patch of land, Tipton Green. The council, trying to stop stray horses wandering streets and wrecking gardens, says more horses seen wandering will be taken.

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell's cabinet member for jobs and economy, said: "We have instructed the bailiffs to continue their endeavours and it would seem that the roaming horses

have disappeared. We would like any residents to notify us if they are still in the area.

"We have started on this process and we will be making sure we clean up the Tipton area but we want to speak to the responsible horse owners to try and get some resolutions to the problem which has been with us for 50 or 60 years."

It is expected to cost up to £1,000 to remove each horse.

Owners have to pay medical, stabling and feeding costs to get them back.

# Ancient law could help get horses off streets

## Brahms is taking the spotlight



Musical director Tim Calloway seen leading Brierley Hill Choral Society

A CHOIR based in Dudley which has serenaded audiences for more than seven decades is dedicating its latest show to the works of a famous German composer.

Members of Brierley Hill Choral Society are busy rehearsing for their next show called *Basically Brahms* which will be staged next month at St Michael's Church, off Church Hill, in Brierley Hill, on May 7.

Compositions from conductor Tim Calloway will also feature during the night. Society chairman Bob Lloyd-Jones says choir members are looking forward to the show.

Prices range from £7.50 to £8.50 with £5 student and £18 family tickets available which include refreshments.

Call 01384 392443 with further details available by logging on to [www.brierley-hill-choral-society.org.uk](http://www.brierley-hill-choral-society.org.uk)

STRAY horses plaguing the Black Country will be impounded under an old law as part of a new plan unveiled by police and council leaders.

It came after Dudley Council officers agreed seizure of horses fell under section 24 of the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, allowing cattle on a highway to be seized and impounded.

The council will pay police an undisclosed sum so horses straying onto roads can be seized and found permanent homes if owners do not appear in three days, in a six-month trial.

Hundreds of reports of animals causing havoc wandering across main roads flooded in since the start of the year, especially in Pensnett, Brockmoor, Kingswinford and Coseley areas.

Chief Inspector Mark Bramwell said: "It means that we can actually take positive action and possibly move the horses for good, should they cause a problem. We get high volumes of calls each week and in many cases we have been powerless to act. The issue has always been identifying owners for these animals, however the new arrangement will give the owner the option to come forward and deal with the issue."

When an animal is impounded and moved to a paddock outside the Black Country, the owner has three days to prove ownership and settle fines. Bosses have declined to say how much it will cost.

Council director of urban environment, John Millar, said they had a reactive service to help deal with stray horses after months of behind the scenes work with a number of agencies. "We will continue to work with our partners to tackle the problem of horses abandoned by irresponsible owners across the borough."

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Intermediates: Mon 9th May 19.00-21.00, 10 wks. £50.20 #  
Improvers: Tues 3rd May 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £55.25 #  
Beginners: Thurs 5th May 19.00-20.00, 10 wks. £35.40 #  
Beginners: Thurs 5th May 20.00-21.00, 10 wks. £35.40 #

#### AFRICAN DRUMMING

Tues 3rd May 19.00-20.30, 4 wks. £21.00 #  
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Mon 9th May 14.00-16.00, 3 wks. £21.00 #

#### PAINTING for BEGINNERS

Mon 13th June 14.00-16.00, 3 wks. £21.00 #

#### PAINTING and DRAWING

Tues 3rd May 19.00-21.00, 10 wks. £50.25 #  
Wed 4th May 10.00-12.00, 10 wks. £50.25 #  
Thurs 5th May 10.00-12.30, 10 wks. £62.80 #  
Thurs 5th May 13.30-15.30, 10 wks. £50.25 #

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Beginners: Mon 9th May 20.30-21.15, 10 wks. £29.65 #  
Improvers: Tues 3rd May 20.05-20.50, 11 wks. £32.60 #  
Intermediates: Mon 9th May 19.45-20.30, 10 wks. £29.65 #

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Fridays 9.15-11.15. 5 wks. Starts 17th June  
Mon-Thurs. 4 days 13.00-15.30 Starts 25th July  
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	Monday	12.40-13.25	£2.60
	Thursday	8.00- 8.45	£2.60
	Thursday	19.00-20.15	£2.60
	Friday	15.15-16.00	£2.60
AQUAFIT	Wednesday	12.30-13.10	£2.60
	Wednesday	19.00-20.00	£3.70
	Friday	12.40-13.25	£2.60
	Sunday	18.00-19.00	£3.70
SWIM FITNESS **	Monday	18.00-17.45	£1.60
TABLE TENNIS**	Tuesday	18.30-19.30	*
AQUAFIT**	Sunday	17.00-18.00	*

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Improvers: Mon 9th May 17.45-18.45, 10 wks. £43.00  
Intermediates: Thurs 5th May 17.45-18.45, 10 wks. £43.00

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**Improver.** Improves aquatic skills and stamina to swim 15m on a front stroke and 15m back crawl.

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# Drunk driver could not remember visit to pub

## Dancing robot delights crowds

AN 8ft robot stomped into the Black Country to surprise and delight shoppers with some slick moves.

Titan the Robot danced and interacted with youngsters during three, free 30-minute shows at the Merry Hill Centre, Brierley Hill.

He was also there to promote the Black Country University Technical College, which is due to open in Walsall in September offering Year 10 and sixth formers the chance to gain qualifications for a career in science and engineering.

About 200 people gathered round the stage in Fountain Square to see each performance. Edna-May Johnson, aged 77, of Witton Street, Stourbridge, danced with Titan and sang along to routines. She said: "He's very entertaining."

Among the families there yesterday were Carol Evans, 54, of Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, and her grandson Kyle, aged six. Mrs Evans said Kyle was a bit frightened at first but then Titan made him laugh by making burping noises and he loved it.



Titan with, from left, shoppers Sheila Deane, Lara Horsley and Amy Humphries. Inset: Titan the Robot entertaining onlookers at the Merry Hill shopping centre

AN UNEMPLOYED mechanic who drove home when more than four times the drink-drive limit was followed home by an off-duty police officer who watched on as he took 20 minutes to find his front door keys.

Jason Pritchard had been drinking at The Cat pub in Wordsley before heading home in the early hours in his parents' car. But he almost collided with the officer as he left the car park, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

The officer followed 36-year-old Pritchard to his home in Barnett Lane, Kingswinford.

Pritchard, who was driving a Peugeot VRM, almost collided with a second vehicle coming in the opposite direction and was seen driving down the middle of the road in the incident at about 12.30pm, said Mr David Truelove, prosecuting.

When he reached his home, where he lives with his parents, he was "moving the car backwards and forwards" trying to reverse onto the drive.

Mr Truelove said: "The officer then watched the defendant and saw him spend a full 20 minutes - and she counted - trying to open the front door."

### Banned

Pritchard was so drunk that "he did not even require a roadside breath test", said Mr Truelove.

Pritchard, an unemployed mechanic who previously worked at Kwik Fit in Halesowen, had 146 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath when he was tested on April 4. The legal drink-drive limit is 35 microgrammes.

Pritchard, who admitted drink driving, was given a 12-month community order and must carry out 300 hours of unpaid work. He was also banned from driving for 30 months.

Chairman of magistrates, Mr Michael Penn, said: "A custodial sentence could have been imposed but, taking into account your previous record and your remorse, we will make a community order."

Mr Jahangeer Aslam, defending, said Pritchard could not remember being at the pub and had reacted badly to finding out his partner was having an affair.

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## Jobs joy as firm seals Merc deal

### Pickers tackle grot spots



Stourbridge resident Russell Eden cleans Heath Street as part of a new campaign

A CAMPAIGN urging people to "adopt a spot" to rid streets of litter has launched.

More than 10 people have agreed to keep sections of streets where they live in Stourbridge clean and clear.

Anti-litter action group Tidy Stourbridge was created after pictures of grubby, rubbish-filled streets appeared on social networking site Twitter.

Group co-founder Russell Eden, of Heath Street, Stourbridge, tackled a 50 metre stretch of road outside his home. He said: "We had a lot of people tell us that

they would like to come to our events but that they couldn't make it, or would be more inclined to do it if it was around where they live.

"I've cleared an area of my street and it looks fantastic – the contrast with where no work has been done is really striking."

He said they started to work closely with Dudley Council, which provided volunteers with litter-picking equipment. Tidy Stourbridge has held at least one litter-picking event a month since July, often alongside a social pint in a nearby pub afterwards.

A HALESOWEN engineering firm is set for a jobs boost after securing a seven-year contract worth £5 million to make parts for the forthcoming Mercedes-Benz S-Class luxury car.

ETMA Engineering hopes to recruit up to 20 workers, with the possibility of more if continues to land further orders.

ETMA, part of the GSA Group, was selected from engineering companies across Europe for the lucrative contract with global automotive designer and manufacturer Faurecia.

The Victoria Road firm will be making five parts for a new-style armrest in Mercedes' flagship car.

### Reassuring

ETMA is currently tooling up for production and will be looking to recruit staff when work on the contract starts towards the end of next year.

GSA Group's business manager Rajesh Bedi said: "This is great news for both ETMA Engineering as well as for the wider West Midlands region."

"In these uncertain times this comes as reassuring news that there are manufacturing opportunities opening up; it's about looking both locally as well as beyond to find them."

"As a company we kept our heads down and our efforts and standards high when times were low, and that is exactly what led to us converting this latest milestone contract."

### Mural in the making

ARTISTS are invited to help create a mural of the Titanic as part of the run-up to an annual arts showcase event in Dudley. The mural is being created at Art-space, in Brierley Hill. Those wishing to contribute should call Anna Fusco on 01384 816587.

**Zip wire  
is set to  
open for  
summer**

A £250,000 high-rope adventure park opens in the Black Country this summer after plans were approved.

The new attraction in Sandwell Valley will feature an assault course with swings, climbing nets and a suspension bridge.

A 164ft zip wire and children's roundabout will also be included in the scheme, expected to open in July.

Plans have been unanimously approved by Sandwell planning committee.

It will be the borough's largest outdoor adventure playground aimed at youngsters aged between five and 13 and will be funded by the Play Pathfinder Capital Programme, money from the Government to improve play facilities for children nationwide.

Addressing the committee last night, council officer John Satchwell, said: "We are all very proud of our facilities at Sandwell Valley which is a major visitor attraction for local residents and other areas."

"We think these facilities will further enhance the facilities at Sandwell Valley."

The zip wire mirrors the successful Go Ape tree adventure attraction on Cannock Chase and high-rope adventure courses are also popular at Baggeridge Country Park near Sedgley.

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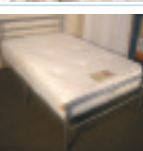
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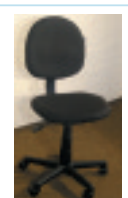
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# Vandalised doctors' homes sold in auction

## Stepping out in memory of dad

TWO siblings from Dudley put their best foot forward to raise more than £400 in a charity mission in memory of their father.

Tom and Katie Hifcox raised £440 for the British Heart Foundation, after completing a six-mile round trip from their home, in Sledmore Road, to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The duo's dad, David, who had high cholesterol, died from a heart attack, four years ago.

Since his death, 11-year-old Tom and 13-year-old Katie were both tested for the hereditary condition and the results confirmed Katie will also be required to take medication when she is older.

Their proud mum, Angela, said: "I think it is great my children decided to do something to remember their dad and it is so important to raise money for a charity like this especially knowing Katie will need medication for her cholesterol levels later in life."



Brother and sister Tom and Katie Hifcox from Sledmore Road, Dudley have raised £440 for the British Heart Foundation, by walking six miles, in memory of their father.

VANDAL-HIT doctors' houses left derelict for years have been sold at auction, raising nearly £1 million for a Black Country hospital trust.

The properties in Ashdown Drive, in Wordsley, were put under the hammer by bosses at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on Thursday.

And all eight sold for higher than their guide prices, raking in £839,000 for the trust as they sold for between £95,000-£110,000 each, compared to original estimates of between £93,000-£98,000.

The houses were the target of vandals since medics moved out up to five years ago.

### Accommodation

They were used by staff from Wordsley Hospital before it was closed in 2005.

They were part of a block of 19 homes in the road used by the NHS for staff accommodation. A further four homes were sold around Christmas.

Estate agents Lex Allan held the auction and sales director Stewart Allcock said the homes had been a magnet for metal thieves.

He said: "I can understand many people wanted to see them sold. They were made safe and secure before their sale."

Hospital trust chief executive Paula Clarke added: "The money raised will be invested in clinical services."

### Skittles night raises £600

A CHARITY skittles night in Blackheath has raised more than £600 for charity. The event, at Blackheath Primary School, was held on April 1 to provide funding for Cancer Support, based at the White House in Dudley. The charity provides practical and emotional support to cancer sufferers.

thechronicle

THE WAY I SEE IT

# AV: Time to heed again the words of Winston Churchill

ON Thursday, May 5 the UK will hold its first national referendum in 36 years and voters will decide whether to keep the current voting system or ditch it in favour of the Alternative Vote (AV).

This vote will shape the future of our democracy and, at a time of financial uncertainty, it is important that we have a debate on the risks of this change.

Under our current system the candidate who gets the most votes wins. Under AV, voters would have to rank candidates (1, 2, 3 and so on).

If no candidate gets 50 per cent of the vote the last placed candidate is knocked out and his or her votes are redistributed according to the next valid preferences on each ballot paper. This process repeats until one candidate gets above the 50 per cent mark. Although no voting system is perfect, I believe that we should keep our fair, clear and decisive system instead of adopting the unpopular, unfair and complicated AV system.

Only three countries in the world use AV - Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Australia - and it hasn't been wildly successful. Papua New Guinea has used it only once, Fiji will be ditching it ahead of their next election and Australia has to use compulsory voting to force people to the polls.

Even most of the Yes campaign supporters don't actually want AV because they really want proportional representation (PR). Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Nick Clegg, who is now championing AV, previously called it a "miserable little compromise."

Likewise, his colleague Chris Huhne acknowledged that AV "does not give voters real power." It has only been put

**Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter**



forward as political compromise, and that's not a good reason to change our voting system.

Supporters claim that it will make elections more competitive, but AV doesn't reduce the number of safe seats - in the last election 218 MPs were elected with more than 50 per cent of the vote and they would have won in the first round under AV, making their position just as secure.

### Increased

Moreover, AV violates the basic "one person, one vote" principle by giving supporters of fringe parties two, three or more votes. Mainstream voters, on the other hand, will never get their other preferences counted.

The only others certain to benefit from AV - besides the Liberal Democrats - is parties such as the BNP. While I would hope they would fail to win seats, they could gain legitimacy from increased votes

because AV gives people the chance to register a protest vote for an extremist party alongside their regular vote.

While far-right governments have never been elected under first-past-the-post, instant run-off systems like AV can produce surprise results based on second and third preferences. I believe we should only make dramatic changes to our voting system if it is in the national interest, not because it benefits one political party. AV is not an improvement on what we currently have. It's an untested, expensive system - "the most worthless votes for the most worthless candidates" in Sir Winston Churchill's words.

Steve Ridley will make an excellent new councillor for Netherton, Woodside & St. Andrews. Steve lives in Netherton and runs a fireplace company. He has served as a local school governor for more than 20 years.

Cheryl Billingham, who has

lived in Kingswinford for 19 years where she works for a small business, will be able to take her experience from involvement with a number of local community groups into the council chamber if elected in Kingswinford North & Wall Heath.

Glenis Simms has lived in Dudley all her life and works for the Barnardo's charity. She has previously worked with young offenders and elderly people with dementia. Glenis, who is standing in Wordsley, has a great deal of care experience to bring to Dudley MBC.

### Active

Sue Ridley works with her husband in their fireplace business. She has served as a governor at a local school for the past five years.

Sue would be an active community Councillor for Brockmoor & Pensnett, just like Councillor Sue Greenaway.

Dan Horrocks lives locally and works in Brierley Hill. He has been an active member of the local community for several years and is standing in Brierley Hill.

Councillor Peter Miller has lived locally for 35 years and has represented Kingswinford South since 2000, latterly serving as Mayor of the Borough. Peter is a dedicated ward Councillor and it is my hope that Peter is returned to the Council Chamber to continue his good work for local residents.

## Conservatives pin hopes on youth and experience

DUDLEY North Conservatives have announced their line up of candidates for next week's local elections including the current and former council leaders, Councillors Anne Millward and David Caunt.

Cabinet member for housing Councillor David Simms is also seeking re-election.

Anne Millward is defending the Gornal ward having just had her leadership of the council commended by the Audit Commission who stated that "Dudley continues to offer its residents excellent value for

money". Meanwhile, Anne's husband Daryl Millward will be fighting the St. Thomas's ward.

In Upper Gornal Councillor David Simms defends his seat on the council after a busy year that has seen him begin building the first new council houses in the borough for 20 years, oversee two extra care housing developments and cancel Dudley's asylum seeker contract.

Residents in Sedgley will have the opportunity to re-elect former leader Councillor David Caunt MBE for his 41st year on the

council. David received the MBE for his service to Local Government last year.

There's a touch of celebrity in the St. James's ward where Beacon Radio's 'Porky' aka Ian Jones makes a third attempt at winning the seat.

Martin Duffield meanwhile returns to the area where he taught for many years as he campaigns in Coseley East.

The Conservatives hope youth could be the key in Castle & Priory as student Hasan Afzal makes his first attempt to gain a seat on the council.



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# Village hall is set for radio soap's Easter story of country folk . . .



Jane Bache and Molly outside the village hall

A Midlands village became radio soap's Ambridge for the day during a special anniversary edition of Gardeners' Question Time.

Cutnall Green, between Stourport and Droitwich, was chosen to stand in for the village for the recording of a special version of Gardeners' Question Time. The show, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Easter Sunday, featured characters from The Archers asking experts for advice on how to make their gardens grow.

Devotees of the "everyday story of country folk" have debated the exact location of the fictional village of Ambridge, where the soap is set, for years.

And it seems Cutnall Green may now be the closest thing to the radio favourite. Although the special gardening show was billed as being broadcast from Ambridge, the taping actually took place at Cutnall Green Memorial Hall, in Addis Lane, on March 22.

Producers chose the location because it was the closest match to the Dorsetshire community with a village post office and pub in exactly the right spots.

It is part of the 60th anniversary celebrations for the programme which started in 1951 after a pilot in 1950 proved successful.

But the recording came as a major surprise to residents who thought they were attending a normal taping of Gardeners' Question Time.

The first half of the taping was for a normal edition of the long-running gardening show with questions taken from members of Hartlebury Gardening Club and other members of the community.

But they were told the second half would be "a surprise" and were delighted when chairman of the panel Eric Robson read out the names of characters from the soap.

## Recognition

The actors then entered the hall and took their seats on the front row.

Among the actors taking part were Charles Collingwood as Brian Aldridge, Eric Allan as Bert Fry, and June Spencer as Peggy Archer.

Hall bookings secretary Jane Bache, aged 58, said: "All we were told was that there would be a surprise in the second half after the first show had been taped.

"When the names were read out there was a ripple of recognition and a lot of laughter.

"It was a real surprise," she added.

# Picture perfect for artist Bill, aged 101

AS HE celebrates his 101st birthday, former railway yard worker Bill Holden shows no sign of giving up his favourite pastime – watercolour painting.

Over the last year he has built up a portfolio of about 80 pieces and has impressed fellow residents at Comberton Nursing Home, Stourbridge, where he celebrated his birthday.

Family and friends were there for the event on April 15.

Bill, born and raised in New Street, Brierley Hill, travels around the Midlands with relatives – and photographs landscapes to paint.

He then spends hours producing images. Some works have come from books of UK landscapes including the Lake District and the Norfolk Broads.

## Railway

He said: "I enjoy painting – it keeps me busy and I like looking at all the different wildlife.

"Some of the staff at the home suggested it to me about a year ago and it has gone from there."

He worked in the railway yard at Brierley Hill's Round Oak Steel Works after leaving school at 14 until retiring at 68.

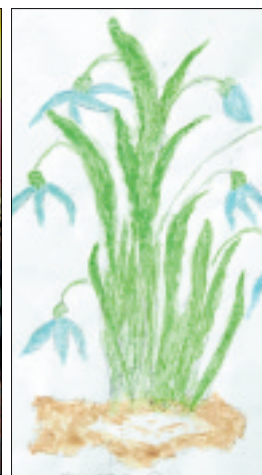
The seventh of eight children, he stayed in the town until 1988 when he moved to Wall Heath where he was until 2009 when he moved into the nursing home.

Although he never had any children and his wife died in 1982, he still has plenty of family and friends that visit him most weeks.

On his birthday he was joined by great-nephew Ben Robson, aged five, from Bristol along with Ben's grandmother, Colleen Green, of Wordsley.



Bill Holden, aged 101, with members of his family at Comberton Nursing Home in Stourbridge



Bill captures the look of flowers



Wildlife is a frequent inspiration



One of Bill's watercolour paintings of some birds

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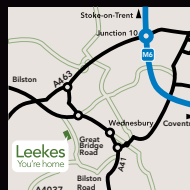


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School Drive - 6.30 pm

Tel: Andrea 07860 22288

#### Ambicote

Ambicote Christian Centre, Brettell  
Lane - 10 am

Tel: Linda 07584 086494

#### Wollscote

The Ridge Primary School,  
Gregory Road - 7 pm

Tel: Delwyn 01562 887922

#### Quarry Bank

Thorns Primary School,  
Thorns Road - 6.30 pm

Tel: Lisa 01384 830587

#### Wordsley

Ashwood Park Primary School, Bells  
Lane - 7 pm

Tel: Ian 07970 147592

#### Sedgley

Cotwall End School,  
Cotwall End Road - 6 pm and 7.30 pm

Tel: Sue 01384 211425

#### Netherton

Cole Street Church,  
Cole Street - 7 pm

Tel: Heather 07729 105659

#### Lye

Salvation Army,  
55 High Street - 7.30pm

Tel: Jayne 07530 217240

### TUESDAY

#### Bromley/Kingswinford

Dingle Community Centre,  
Madeley Road - 7 pm

Tel: Diane 07974 657589

#### Ambicote

Peters Hill Primary School,  
Peters Hill Road - 6 pm and 7.30 pm

Tel: Lynne 01384 455427

#### Norton

Gillmill Primary School,  
The Broadway - 7 pm

Tel: Aimee 07967 771001

#### Gornal

Zoar Methodist Church,  
Abbey Road - 5.30 pm and 7 pm

Tel: Heather 07729 105659

#### Wollscote

St James C of E Primary School,  
Kingsway - 7 pm

Tel: Delwyn 01562 887922

#### Wordsley

Richardson Hall,  
Lawnswood Road - 10 am

Tel: Ian 07970 147592

### WEDNESDAY

#### Dudley

Bishop Milner R.C. School,  
The Broadway Entrance - 7 pm

Tel: Sue 01922 882263

#### Kingswinford

Royal British Legion,  
Summershill - 3.30 pm, 5.00 pm and 6.30 pm

Tel: Ann 01384 74864

#### Brierley Hill

Withymoor Primary School, Gayfield  
Avenue - 7 pm

Tel: Lynne 01384 455427

#### Holly Hall

Holly Hall School,  
Scotts Green Close, Dudley - 7 pm

Tel: John 01384 423616

#### Kinner

St Peters Church Hall,  
Vicarage Drive - 7 pm

Tel: John 01384 423616

#### Netherton

Champions Church,  
St Giles Street (off Halesowen Road) - 7 pm

Tel: Heather 07729 105659

#### Wollscote

Wollscote Community Centre,  
Wassell Road - 9.30am

Tel: Rachel 07775 331273

#### Oldswinford

St. Marys Church Hall,  
Oldswinford (Stourbridge) 4.00pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm

Tel: Kerry 01384 833813

### THURSDAY

#### Sedgley/Upper Gornal

St Chads and All Saints,  
RC Social Club, High Holborn, Dudley

Road - 5 pm and 7 pm

Tel: Sue 01922 882263

#### Dudley

Central Methodist Church,  
Highbridge Road - 7 pm

Tel: Lisa 01384 211425

#### Netherton

Netherton C of E Primary School,  
Highbridge Road - 7 pm

Tel: Sue 01384 211425

#### Stourbridge

St Thomas Church Hall,  
Market Street - 10 am

Tel: John 01384 423616

#### Hawbush

Oakfield Centre, Brettell Lane, Brierley  
Hill - 5 pm and 6.30 pm

Tel: John 01384 423616

#### Stourbridge

Greenfield Primary School,  
Hill Street - 7 pm

Tel: Marie 01384 893001

#### Hagley

Hagley Primary School,  
Oldswinford (Stourbridge) 7.30pm

Tel: Paula 07846 847068

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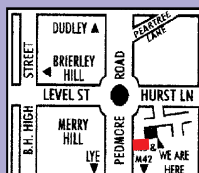
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## thechronicle

# Been rambling on for 25 years

A WALKING group has issued a special invitation to celebrate its 25th birthday.

Halesowen Ramblers are looking forward to welcoming members old and new to join them for their new programme of anniversary walks.

Volunteers from the group organise around 200 each year, from four-mile rambles to 10-mile circular hikes.

The group is now hoping lots of like-minded lovers of the countryside will pull on their walking boots and join them.

Since the group first came together in 1986 the keen walkers have organised thousands of rambles to beauty spots close to home and further afield.

Enthusiastic walkers of all abilities are invited to take part in existing popular walks, or to help to plan new routes.

Club secretary Ron Baker said, "We have had a fantastic

25 years and many firm friendships have been made through our group.

"We hope that our love of the countryside will inspire even more people to join us to make our anniversary year our most successful yet."

Halesowen Ramblers meet most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays with walks often ending with visits to countryside pubs.

### Hotels

The group also enjoys rambling weekend breaks to country hotels, as well as meals out and trips to the theatre.

More information can be found at [www.halrambler.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.halrambler.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk) or by calling 0121 550 0530.

Future members can take part in three free taster rambles before paying a £4 yearly membership fee.



Halesowen Ramblers celebrate 25 years of walking around Britain. Pictured are, front, Dawne Jackson and back, from left Tony Jackson and Frank Foster

# Shuttle bus move to help as car park goes

## Fire crews clean up for charity



Watch commander Jim Hill with, back from left, crew commander Alan Baker, motorist Kim Grainger, and firefighters Sam Hooley, Sean Richards, and Nick Green

FIREFIGHTERS got into a lather to raise £300 for good causes at the first of two charity car washes.

Brierley Hill fire station's white watch invited residents to the station, in Dudley Road, on April 16 and 23 to get their cars cleaned. More than 80 cars turned up during the first three-hour event with proceeds split between The Firefighters' Charity and the Royal Marines Charitable Trust.

Crews are also taking part in a 17km endurance run in May.

A NEW shuttle bus service could be laid on to ferry people into Stourbridge when a multi-storey car park is demolished as part of a £50 million redevelopment of the Crown Centre.

Hundreds of parking spaces in the town will be lost when the Bell Street site is demolished as part of the scheme to create new shops and a Tesco supermarket. Many workers and shoppers will have to use spaces outside the town centre in Birmingham Street. Dudley Council said it was considering operating a shuttle service.

It would transport people from the Birmingham Street car park on the opposite side of the ring road into the town centre.

A similar service funded by transport authority Centro has been operating while the town's new £7million bus station is being built and is now used by more than 400 passengers a day.

It was recently extended until July because it has proved so popular. The new station is due to complete in early 2012. The present service is funded by Centro.

Cabinet member for transport on Dudley Council, Councillor Angus Adams, said the authority was now considering a service along the same lines when work starts on the Crown Centre.

### Place

"In many ways it would be retention of the service which is presently in place. The idea would be to have the stops in the same place as they are for the shuttle service at the moment," he said.

"This would mean people using Birmingham Street to park their cars would only have to cross the road to get to the shuttle stops and could be transported into the town centre."

"Measures are being considered on what will happen when Bell Street closes and is demolished. It will mean hundreds of people who use that car park will be displaced. This would make it easier for people to park their cars in Birmingham Street and still have easy access into the town centre."

A date for Crown Centre work to start has not been finalised.

## Canteen hours cut will save £50,000 a year

CLOSING A Dudley hospital canteen for 11 hours every night will save £50,000 a year, bosses have revealed.

Russells Hall Hospital canteen currently opens 24 hours a day but will shut from 8pm to 7am, starting on May 30.

Patients, visitors and staff who want food and drink will have to use vending machines.

The move is part of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's plans to save £12million over the next financial year, and £30m by March 2014.

Some vending machines will have built-in microwave ovens which use a barcode system to calculate how long food needs to be cooked.

Three workers on night shifts in the canteen, which is run by the hospital's private partner Interserve, will be redeployed to daytime roles. Savings will come from reduced wages for staff – they are paid more for a night shift – and less stock being required.

Dudley councillor and hospital governor Steve Waltho said: "I'm concerned the hospital's personal service is suffering." But trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "As the Trust operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we operate a number of different shift patterns. By introducing the vending machines we will ensure that staff working through the night will be able to access a wide range of hot and cold food, snacks and drinks."

## Police overtime figures rocket

THE cost of overtime for West Midlands Police has jumped by almost 60 per cent in the last decade.

The police overtime bill for the force has increased from £11.4m in 2000/01 to almost £18m in 2009/10 – meaning each officer is now pocketing an average of £2,081 on top of their annual salary.

The bill peaked in 2007/08 at £24.1m, but it has been slashed by more than £3.3m last year as the force attempts to reduce costs in the wake of stinging Government cuts to budgets.

Staffordshire Police spent £5.3m last year on police overtime, up 13 per cent on a decade

ago, averaging £2,442 an officer, while West Mercia's bill spiralled to £4.9m from £3.8m, an average of £2,034 per officer.

West Mercia managed to reduce payouts by £906,000 the last year, while payments have increased in Staffordshire by £308,000.

West Midlands Police is being forced to make savings of £125m and Staffordshire Police £39m as Government funding for the police service is cut by 20 per cent in real terms by 2014/15. West Midlands Police has warned that it faces losing 2,250 jobs, with the Staffordshire force shedding 600 jobs and West Mercia 300.

## Restaurant bid to double capacity

A RESTAURANT in the Black Country has applied to double its capacity.

The boss of Polonia in Great Bridge wants to create a function room below the first-floor restaurant.

Owner of the Polish restaurant Robert Kubicek said: "We have bounced back following the recession and want to expand. We need the extra space and the office unit downstairs is empty so it seems natural to use it."

The restaurant has capacity for 40 diners but could increase that figure by 50 if it is allowed to expand. The development would create a full-time job. Mr

Kubicek, who opened the restaurant four years ago and is from Legnica in Poland, said: "It will allow us to hold larger events like weddings and parties here. We did suffer with the downturn but things seem to have picked up."

Polonia, off Market Place, offers home-style Polish cooking but Mr Kubicek said about 80 per cent of his customers were British.

Typical dishes include traditional pea soup, bigos stew and pierogi dumplings.

To view the application, visit the authority's website at [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk) and enter reference DC/11/53124.



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## Home's send-off for a veteran of Normandy

THE Last Post rang out in the Black Country as a Normandy veteran was laid to rest.

Members of the Royal British Legion gathered at Sandwell Valley Crematorium on Friday to pay their respects to George Mills.

Mr Mills, aged 88, was born in Wales and grew up in Bath but moved, first to Cannock and then to Spring Road, Tipton, with wife Glenis.

Glenis died in the 1980s and Mr Mills eventually moved into the Lyndon Hill Nursing Home, West Bromwich, where he lived until he died on March 9.

As he had no children, staff at the care home worked with the Royal British Legion and National Federation of Standard Bearers to give him an appropriate send-off.

Home administrator Lorraine Westwood said the veteran was a "lovely man". She said: "He was quiet but he seemed proud of his medals and had a lot of photographs and memorabilia in his room. It is a shame we've not been able to find more of his family but we believe this was a fitting send-off."

His coffin, draped in the Union Flag, entered the crematorium to the sound of Vera Lynn's White Cliffs of Dover, and mourners filed out



George Mills recently

to the sound of another wartime classic We'll Meet Again. A white dove was released following the ceremony.

It is believed Mr Mills, born on March 7, 1923, drove tanks in World War II and, aged 21, took part in the Normandy landings in 1944.

Distant relatives from his wife's family attended the service, where Tipton RBL members and standard bearers formed a guard of honour at the Newton Road crematorium.

## Campaigners appeal for help in restoring church

CAMPAIGNERS working to restore and preserve a landmark Black Country church are appealing for more volunteers to boost their fundraising efforts.

St John's Church Preservation Group has been battling for years to get the historic

place of worship, in Kates Hill, Dudley, re-opened and has raised thousands of pounds. But members say more volunteers are needed if the campaign is to grow.

They have launched volunteer information events on the first Friday and third Monday

of every month to boost numbers.

More people are needed to run a drop-in centre. Volunteers are also needed to run stalls at Dudley market, in the town's Plaza Mall on Saturdays, and at Dudley Library.

People are also needed to deliver leaflets and carry out maintenance at the church.

Volunteers can be aged 16 and over.

Spokeswoman Deb Brownlee said the volunteer helpers were fantastic, but more were needed.

She added: "We are volunteer run and everything we have achieved has been through local people working out of a genuine desire to see the church saved and reopened."

"We need a lot more helpers now, and we need them urgently."

# Disabled man, 33, must pay £20 a day to work

AN UNPAID worker has been told he must pay £20 a day to carry out his job at a Kidderminster charity – because of Government spending cuts.

Mark Green, who has cerebral palsy, was told of the charges by charity Beacon Employment which says Government cuts mean it can no longer subsidise support staff to help him.

Mr Green and other workers do their jobs with the help of the support workers. Mr Green, aged 33, who cannot use his left-hand side for skilled work, had worked on assembling lightweight packaging and gas lighters two days a week, but stopped after the charges took effect on April 15.

The charity, at Hoo Farm industrial estate near Kidderminster, helps people who struggle to find work.

But it says the withdrawal of Government funding means the project is no longer self-financing.

The organisation's projects include making bird boxes, gardening, and assembling packaging.

### Necessary

Mr Green's mother, Audrey Green, a retired newsagent, said: "He's not going to a safari park or the seaside, he's going to work."

"I'm disgusted by it. When you have a disabled child you spend your whole life fighting to get stuff and I am sick of it."

Mrs Green, who lives with her husband John and her son, said: "Mark already pays his petrol prices to get to the charity."

"He only gets his disability living allowance, and it's not enough for him to pay for this."

Beacon chief executive Sandy Beech said similar projects elsewhere in the country cost as much as £65 a day.

She added: "It is a really difficult situation. We tried to set up this project with the aim of it being self-funded but that has not been possible."



Mark Green with the letter telling him of the charges

"Parents, carers and users coming to the projects tell us they enjoy and value the experience."

"We want to keep projects going because of that, so we've decided to put these costs to the clients to keep them going."

## It's girl power at shops centre

A MIDLAND girl band tipped for the charts performed a marathon six live sets in one day for shoppers at Dudley's Merry Hill centre.

PaperDoll hope to follow in the footsteps of boy band The Wanted who performed at the centre's amphitheatre just weeks before achieving national success.

Members Natasha Morris, aged 21, of Lichfield, Caitlin Gilbert, 16, and Jessica Hickling, 17, both of Tamworth, took to the stage at 10am on Saturday, April 16 and performed 45-minute sets until 4.30pm.

Shoppers watched the band perform a selection of songs, including single Don't Let Me Dance on My Own, throughout the day. Caitlin and Jessica are both students at Wilnecote High School, Tamworth.

Both are still studying for A-levels and balancing the work with their fledgling pop careers.



Girl band PaperDoll – Natasha Morris, aged 21, Caitlin Gilbert, 16, and Jessica Hickling, 17 – perform for shoppers at the Merry Hill centre

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# Enchanted evenings for theatre stalwart Carole

FOR more than 50 years musical theatre stalwart Carole Preston has been treading the boards in productions in the Black Country.

She has been a leading member of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company for five decades and has appeared in dozens of shows.

But Mrs Preston's first role was not on stage but instead selling programmes to audience members when she was in her teens.

After being encouraged by a friend she made her debut performance in Showboat in 1960.

"I was a nervous teenager in the chorus," she said.

## Favourite

"Since then I have been in every show but one. I missed one because I couldn't be at rehearsals.

"For that show I was a prompt – helping people to remember their lines when needed."

Over the years she has played roles from US Navy nurse Nellie Forbush in South Pacific to undertaker's wife Mrs Sowerberry in Oliver!

Mrs Preston, who lives in Lawnswood Avenue, Kingswinford, lists Nellie Forbush and the part of Mrs Mullins in Carousel, which she has played twice, as being among her favourite characters to bring to life.

"I enjoy performing and I enjoy rehearsing," she said.

"Playing these characters gives me the chance to become someone very different to me for a few hours. I also love music everything from pop to opera, it's a big part of my life."

Mother-of-three Mrs Preston, who has also appeared in numerous pantomimes and concerts, has also been an active committee member for many years taking on roles including general secretary and ticket secretary.

Now her commitment to amateur theatre has been recognised by the National Operatic and Dramatic

Carole Preston with her long service award

Association which has presented her with a long-service award.

"I am pleased, but to be rewarded for doing something that gives me such pleasure seems strange," said Mrs Preston, whose husband George has also been a member for many years.

Grandmother-of-four Mrs Preston said she was keen to encourage new members to join and take part in the company's next production Jesus Christ Superstar in October. Details at [www.bhmtc.co.uk](http://www.bhmtc.co.uk)



Carole with George Preston – who is now her husband – back in 1978



As Mrs Higgins in My Fair Lady in 2004



Get ahead, get a hat. Carole, second right, performing in the musical Hello, Dolly!

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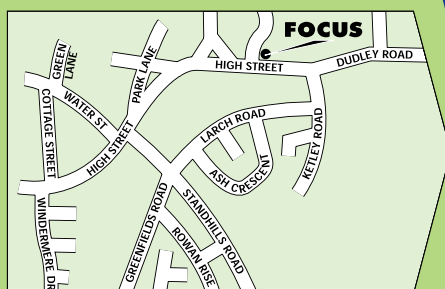
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## THE Royal Wedding SPECIAL



ABOVE LEFT: Prince William and Kate Middleton wave as they pass St Salvador's halls, during a visit to St Andrew's University and (above) Kate at her graduation



LEFT: Prince William with Kate Middleton at RAF Cranwell in 2008 when William received his Royal Air Force wings from Prince Charles

## How love grew . . .

CATHERINE Elizabeth "Kate" Middleton grew up in Berkshire and, after attending Marlborough College, went to the University of St Andrews, where she met Prince William, also studying there, in 2001.

And it was at that university that the two first met and got to know each other. Kate Middleton was one of Prince William's flat-mates and they began dating in 2003.

Once the relationship became known they attracted massive media attention, triggering complaints by Kate that the media were harassing her.

In April 2007, the press reported that William and Kate had split up. They continued to be friends, and later in 2007 they reunited.

Since then, she has attended many high-profile royal events. She has been admired for her fashion sense and has been placed on numerous "best-dressed" lists.

Since her relationship with Prince William began, Kate has received widespread media attention and there was much speculation that they would eventually marry.

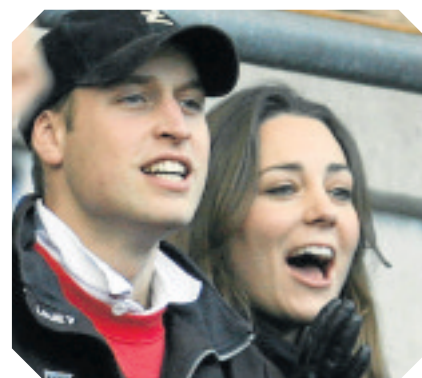
### Ring

On November 16, 2010, the office of the Prince of Wales at Clarence House announced their engagement. Prince William revealed that he had proposed to his girlfriend using the engagement ring that belonged to his mother.

The date and location of the wedding were announced one week later.

In no time commemorative coins, porcelain plates and all kinds of Royal Wedding items appeared and the Royal love story now features in a splashy comic book, a made-for-TV film and stamps to commemorate the Royal Wedding.

Even Legoland has joined in with its miniature Buckingham Palace and a curiously square couple sharing a kiss in front of cheering crowds of well-wishers - all made up of tiny plastic blocks. Something for the young Royal followers.



ALWAYS TIME FOR FRIENDS - AND FUN

ABOVE: Leaving the wedding of their friends Harry Mead and Rosie Bradford in the village of North-leach, Gloucestershire

LEFT: Prince William and Kate Middleton are jubilant as England's Jason Robinson scores the first try during their Six Nations international rugby union match against Italy at Twickenham in 2007

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# Their special day

## Timetable

- ♥ 8.15-9.45am: The general congregation will arrive at the Great North Door of Westminster Abbey
- ♥ From 9.50am: Governors-General and Prime Ministers of Realm Countries, the Diplomatic Corps and other distinguished guests arrive
- ♥ 10.10am: The bridegroom and best man, Prince Harry, leave Clarence House for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at the Abbey at 10.15am
- ♥ 10.20am: Members of foreign Royal Families arrive at Westminster Abbey from Buckingham Palace
- ♥ 10.20am: Carole Middleton and son James leave the Goring Hotel for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at 10.27am
- ♥ 10.25am: Members of the Royal Family (except those listed below) leave Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at 10.30am
- ♥ 10.35am: The following members of the Royal Family leave Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey – The Duke of York, Princess Beatrice of York, Princess Eugenie or York, The Earl and Countess of Wessex, The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Timothy Laurence
- ♥ 10.38am: The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall leave Clarence House for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at 10.42am
- ♥ 10.40am: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh leave Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at the Abbey at 10.45am.
- ♥ 10.48am: The bridesmaids and pages leave the Goring Hotel for Westminster Abbey. They arrive at the Abbey at 10.55am
- ♥ 10.51am: Kate Middleton, accompanied by her father, Michael, leaves the Goring Hotel for Westminster Abbey
- ♥ 11am: The marriage service begins. The service will be relayed by audio speakers along the route
- ♥ 12.15pm: The carriage procession of the bride and bridegroom with a captain's escort of the Household Cavalry, followed by The Queen's Procession with a sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry, leaves Westminster Abbey for Buckingham Palace
- ♥ 12.30pm: The bride's carriage procession arrives at Buckingham Palace
- ♥ 12.40pm: Members of the Royal Family and members of foreign Royal Families arrive at Buckingham Palace
- ♥ From 12.40pm: Other guests for the reception arrive
- ♥ 1.25pm: The Queen and the bride and bridegroom, together with their families, appear on the Balcony
- ♥ 1.30pm: Fly past by the Royal Air Force and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

● All timings are subject to change

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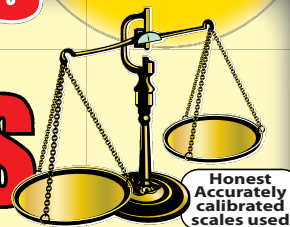


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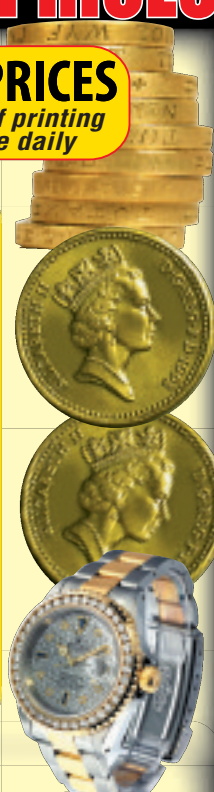
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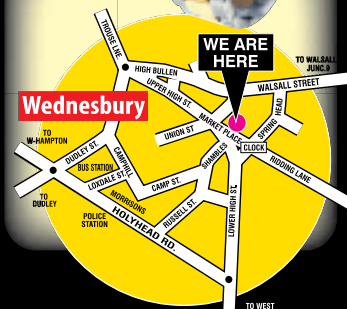
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# Tanks for the memories, guys!



Reporter Jon Pritchard inside the fV432 Armoured Personnel Carrier

**M**OST young boys aspire to drive a tank as they are growing up – and a Rugeley company is now offering the chance to realise that dream.

Chris Smith and Paul Ayre have set up Tank Driving UK. They own two ex-British Army tanks, a fV432 and a Stalwart, which can be driven around a one-and-a-half mile off road track.

The company hopes to appeal to children's parties, stag and hen parties, corporate days or simply the individual looking for a thrill.

Chris, aged 26, said: "A friend of ours was looking at doing a day out driving a tank. Suddenly we realised there is nowhere local that offers that, and we could do it ourselves."

The experience itself is major fun. Since the age of 10, after playing with a friend's Action Man tank, this has been something on my wish list of things to do.

The vehicles are immense. Both tanks were built in 1966, so for machines that are 45 years old, they

**Many young boys grow up with a driving ambition to take the controls of a tank. JON PRITCHARD is no exception – and he had his dreams fulfilled thanks to a Rugeley company's new venture**

look stunning. The fV432 has an eight-litre Rolls Royce engine carrying 15 tonnes of steel, so you would expect the experience to be a loud one, but it's actually not bad.

Just being driven in the tank is an experience in itself. The roof is open so you can stick your head out and see where you are going, and the tank doesn't struggle with anything – rolling hills and mud tracks alike are eaten up in its path.

The experience is open to children from five to be driven around, while Chris and Paul will accept drivers from as young as 12 to offer them the experience of a lifetime.

Sitting in the cockpit of the tank is nerve-racking. With a wide variety of switches, levers and pedals just

staring out, the prospect of being in control of such a powerful monster can be worrying.

But the nerves soon dissolve and just five minutes in, it makes for an enjoyable and easy ride.

Being in control on 15 tonnes of steel no longer seems to be a problem, and the fantastic view of rolling hills gives the perfect setting for some army-based fun.

Getting the hang of turning was difficult, but once that was mastered, I had the world at my feet. The trick is to work opposite the way a car works, when turning, press down on the accelerator even more.

Tank Driving UK are looking to expand the range of armoured vehicles they can offer, with their eyes on a main battle tank and an area of water to accommodate the amphibious Stalwart.

Suddenly, driving a tank is no longer a once in a lifetime opportunity.

But, lesson over it's time to get back into my boring 1.2 litre Fiat Punto and head home.

For more information, visit [www.tankdrivinguk.com](http://www.tankdrivinguk.com)



Reporter Jon Pritchard is given instructions by Chris Smith



Business partners Chris Smith, left and Paul Ayre with their GKN fV432 Armoured Personnel Carrier



Jon Pritchard gets to grips with the controls

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Nothing beats the atmosphere at Silverstone when a British driver takes to the circuit. In 2011 both Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button will be aiming to impress the loyal British fans at their home race and hoping to mount the steps of the Silverstone podium.

The British Grand Prix is the oldest race in the Formula 1 calendar, reaching its 61st anniversary in 2011. Originally a Second World War airfield, Silverstone has hosted the race regularly since 1950, and every year since 1987.

The circuit is famous for being one of the fastest and most challenging tracks, testing even the best driver's skills to the limit.

After victory in front of his home fans in 2008, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to emulate this success again, whilst Jenson Button would love to win at Silverstone and join the list of elite British drivers to win in front of a home crowd, including Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

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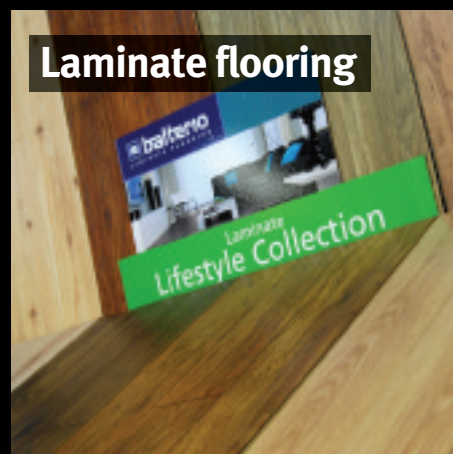
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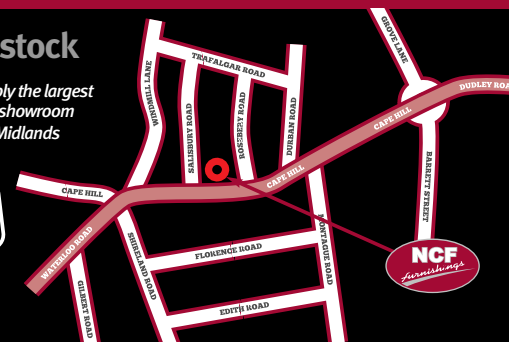
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**NATIVE** New Yorker Cyndi Lauper, who lit up the 80s with her big pop hit *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* and the ballads *Time After Time* and *True Colors*, is back on the road some 30 years since her first major record deal.

The 57-year-old mum of one, pictured left, scored another number one just last year when her *Memphis Blues* album won a Grammy and was rated best blues album of the year.

She will be in concert at the **Symphony Hall, Birmingham**, on June 26. Tickets cost £30 or £33.50. Call 0121 780 3333 or visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk).

## Reviews

### **Beauty and the Beast, Grand, Wolverhampton**

IF you were expecting to see Disney's version of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Grand Theatre, I think you could have been disappointed by this production.

His renditions of 'Just The Way You Are', Queen's 'Somebody to Love' and the title song 'Beauty and the Beast' were note perfect.

Melissa Suffield of Eastenders fame is a suitable Beauty although her deep voice at times takes away the sweetness of her character.

The cast were joined on stage by local school children who performed well-rehearsed song and dance routines.

**Les Jowett**

### **Spamalot, Grand, Wolverhampton**

IF you want a night of guaranteed fun, the outrageous *Spamalot* at the Grand Theatre is the place to be.

This fast-paced musical, lovingly ripped off from Monty Python and the Holy Grail, is a blast that will appeal to base-sense humour.

Even if you are not a Monty Python fan (and I confess, I am not) there are plenty of laughs crafted in the silliness of the script and the catchy songs.

The flamboyant costumes and colourful scenery are delightfully uplifting in this medieval mischief production created by a terrific multi-role cast.

Make-pretend horses ridden around the stage by King Arthur and his knights,

a white rabbit biting off a man's head, risqué gags with passing reference to Simon Cowell, and actors playing Susan Boyle and Ozzie Osborne, are just a few of the side-splitting moments.

Phil Jupitus makes a stoic King Arthur, Todd Carty plays the deadpan manservant Patsy with some wonderful facial expressions and Lady of the Lake Jessica Martin gets the chance to show off her amazing singing skills.

A singalong of 'Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life' got the entire audience joining in. There was a shock for an unsuspecting member of the audience in the finale when he was brought onto the stage to be presented with The Holy Grail.

**Les Jowett**

# Seeing Starrs with Ringo

By Leon Burakowski

**R**INGO Starr's music, as a solo artist and as a Beatle, is permeated by his personality, his warmth and humour.

As well as being drummer with the biggest band ever, he has, in his own right, created classic songs such as *It Don't Come Easy*, *With A Little Help From My Friends*, *Yellow Submarine*, *Don't Pass Me By*, *Octopus' Garden*, *You're Sixteen*, *You're Beautiful And You're Mine*.

In what is one of Ringo's first gigs in the city since he played with the Fab Four at Birmingham Odeon circa 1965, he brings his All Starr Band for a concert at the Symphony Hall on June 20, one of only six UK dates as part of his world tour.

Based on the concept that everybody on stage is a star in their own right, each concert sees Ringo performing songs from his solo and Beatles' career and each band member performing hits from their own careers. Over the years the

revolving line up has included such stellar artists as Joe Walsh, Dr John, Todd Rundgren, Timothy B. Schmidt, John Entwistle, Peter Frampton, Sheila E., Rod Argent and Paul Carrack.

Returning to the stage for the 2011 tour are the six All Starr band members who toured with Ringo in 2010.

These include: Top rock guitarist Rick Deringer, who was just 17 when his band The McCoys recorded the No 1 hit *Hang On Sloopy* in the summer of 1965, knocking Yesterday by The Beatles from the top spot. He later played with both Edgar Winter and Johnny Winter and found further success with his hit single *Rock and Roll Hoochie Koo* and with his eponymous band Derringer. Throughout the 70s and 80s he appeared on numerous albums with artists Alice Cooper, Richie Havens, Todd Rundgren, Cyndi Lauper, Barbra Streisand, Kiss and Steely Dan.

American Richard Page is best known as the singer/bassist for the multi-platinum, Grammy nominated group Mr. Mister. The band



**Ringo Starr - at Symphony Hall with the All Starr Band**

released three albums and had several world-wide hits, including 'Broken Wings' and 'Kyrie'. They split in 1990. Page has recorded two solo albums, 'Shelter Me' and 'Peculiar Life', as well as providing backing vocals for artists such as Elton John, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Streisand and Elvis Costello among many more. As a

songwriter Page has had songs recorded by Madonna, Leona Lewis, Josh Groban, Celine Dion and Hall & Oates to name just a few.

Lead singer with the All Starr Band Wally Palmar, harmonica and rhythm guitar player, was a founding member of The Romantics. The group's self-titled debut album yielded the hit *What I Like About You*. Other singles included 'When I Look In Your Eyes', 'One in a Million', and the international hit 'Talking In Your Sleep'. Never content to simply rest on his red-leathered laurels, Palmar continues to write, record and tour around the world with The Romantics.

Edgar Winter is an accomplished jazz, rock and blues keyboard player and saxophonist as well as a vocalist who first found success in the early 70s. Edgar has worked with Rick Deringer and Ronnie Montrose as well as his older brother Johnny Winter.

In 1972 Edgar had a chart-topping hit with the instrumental *Frankenstein*. Winter's songs have appeared on more than 20 films.

Over the course of his 40-year career which began in the UK with the rock band Spooky Tooth, Gary Wright has played before millions of fans. A pioneer of using synthesizers in pop music, as heard on his worldwide hits *Dream Weaver* and *Love Is Alive*, Gary has inspired generations of mainstream artists including Eminem, Mya, Jay-Z, Busta Rhymes, Anastacia and DJ Armand Van Helden, all of whom have either sampled or covered his songs. Gary joined the All Starr Band in 2008.

Drummer and vocalist Greg Bissonette comes from a musical family, where his father was also a drummer, his mother a pianist, brother a bass player and sister a violinist. Gregg played on three albums by former Van Halen vocalist David Lee Roth. Since then Gregg has recorded and toured with a number of artists, including Toto, ELO, Santana, Andrea Bocelli, The Maynard Ferguson Big Band, Spinal Tap and James Taylor. He has been an All Starr member since 2008 and this is his third tour as an All Starr.

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## the pulse



Mark Radcliffe – music and stories

## Radcliffe – feeling good with Heroes

BBC Radio broadcaster Mark Radcliffe is bringing his mix of music and stories to Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on May 15. He will be reading extracts from his new book, *Reelin' In The Years*, as well as playing tracks from his band The Malone Family and his solo album, *What Remains Of The Day*.

The book charts Radcliffe's musical life, with a chosen song for each of his 52 years, ranging from Cliff Richard to Joy Division and The Smiths to Elbow.

### Book

Radcliffe said: "It was really hard to pick a song from each year. I chose *Move It* by Cliff Richard for the first year because it was the first rock 'n' roll record I heard."

He will also debut songs from his new album, which he says has a more intimate feel compared to the music he writes with his band.

He said: "Writing and recording solo is much like writing a book, you have to be

confident in your ability. This album feels much more intimate."

The broadcaster has been playing tunes on BBC Radio stations for over 20 years, and now resides on 6 Music with his long-time broadcasting partner Stuart Maconie, as well as having his own show on Radio 2. Despite huge changes to the music industry over the years, Radcliffe believes radio is still an important part of the business.

He said: "Radio offers listeners a personal connection by being able to text in or phone in and influence the show. It also gives them somewhere to hear new music. I'll never stop looking for new bands. I always think someone, somewhere is making my next favourite album."

His favourite song to play on the radio is French Disco by Stereolab, but admits one of his favourite songs ever is *Heroes* by David Bowie.

He added: "Whenever I hear it I feel better, it makes you think you could be a hero."

By Jon Pritchard

# Cunning treatment of Mr Fox favourite



Nicholas Merryweather, right, as Mr Fox

FANTASTIC Mr Fox, Roald Dahl's comic children's tale about foxes versus farmers, gets the operatic treatment at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week.

English Touring Opera present the furry fantasy on Monday. *Cunning Mr Fox* (played by exciting young baritone Nicholas Merryweather) takes on three pitiless farmers and their determined digger (played by mezzo-soprano Fiona Kimm) to save his family... and maybe bag some poultry in the bargain.

The production, directed by ETO's award-winning artistic associate Tim Yealand, features professional soloists alongside 21 local school children from East Park Junior School and Woden Primary School who play fox cubs and a chorus of trees.

ETO's production is the UK premiere of the full version of Tobias Picker's adaptation of Roald Dahl's short story, with a libretto by

Donald Sturrock. ETO completes its spring season at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with a performance featuring two, one-hour long Puccini operas on Tuesday. These two short works, *Il tabarro* and *Gianni Schicchi* are contrasting masterpieces. *Il tabarro* is a moody, grotesque thriller that takes place on a barge in Paris and Gianni Schicchi, is a sparkling Florentine comedy featuring popular tenor Nicholas Sherratt, who last performed as Ernesto in Don Pasquale with ETO on their spring 2010 tour.

The actors will prance a lot and shrubs will be sought in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, a rib-tickling musical spoof of Arthurian legend and West End showbiz, which ends its run



Scene from the Fantastic Mr Fox operatic performance

at the Grand on Saturday. Playing King Arthur is Phill Jupitus, abetted by Tod Carthy as the put-upon servant Patsy.

Michael Jackson tribute show *Thriller Live*, featuring Birmingham Pop Idol finalist Hayley Evetts, continues at Birmingham Hippodrome to Saturday night.

Comedian **Eddie Griffin** teams up with fellow comics **Richard Blackwood**, just before taking up his role as Donkey in *Shrek The Musical*, and **Eddie Kadi** and Kevin J at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Sunday night.

Then the same venue hosts gospel comedy **Prodi Gyal** on Monday evening.

The nation's most popular TV scientist Brian Cox joins his co-presenter from BBC

Radio 4's *Infinite Monkey Cage*, Robin Ince, for a night of galactic science at the New Alex next Thursday (May 5), entitled *Uncaged Monkeys*.

Claire Sweeney stars in a revamped version of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday* at Stoke's Regent Theatre to Saturday.

It features 'Take That Look Off Your Face' and new song 'Dreams Never Run On Time'.

The new Royal Shakespeare Company season at Stratford continues with Jonathan Slinger as **Macbeth** and Gregory Doran's new production of 'lost Shakespeare play' **Cardenio**, both in repertoire until the autumn.

By Leon Burakowski

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## Choice

## BBC1

## BBC2

## ITV1

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

## Digital



**NURSE JACKIE**  
BBC2, 10.45pm

Dark comedy following the exploits of Jackie Peyton, a strong-willed emergency room nurse who works at a busy New York hospital and has a weakness for prescription drugs. The nurse is back at work following an abortive family holiday and finds herself at odds with relatives, friends and co-workers after her indiscretions. However, to make matters worse, the drug dealer she conned is seeking revenge. Starring Edie Falco and Eve Best. Last in the series.

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The concluding session of the first semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.25** Don't Scare the Hare. Game show, hosted by Jason Bradbury.

**6.00 Doctor Who.** Part two of two. The Doctor launches a revolution against the invading aliens.

**6.45 So You Think You Can Dance.** Cat Deeley introduces the remaining contestants, who take to the stage once again as couples, hoping to avoid elimination by impressing the judges and winning viewers' votes.

**8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which strangers pair up to win money.

**8.50 So You Think You Can Dance.** The dancers with the lowest votes perform again.

**9.20 Casualty.** Polly's life hangs in the balance.

**10.10 BBC News: Weather.**

**10.30 Match of the Day.** National Lottery Update.

**11.45 The Football League Show.** Weatherview.

**1.10** Sign Zone: The Royal Wedding. (R) **2.40** Giles & Sue's Royal Wedding. (R) **3.40** BBC News.

**6.00 CBeebies.** 7.00 CBBC. **12.00** Coast. (R) **12.15** Film: Citizen Kane. (1941) Oscar-winning drama, starring Orson Welles. **2.15** Film: The Magnificent Ambersons. (1942) Period drama, with Joseph Cotten. **3.45** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The fourth and final session of the first semi-final. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

**6.30 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring appears in court. (R) **7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Coverage of the second semi-final reaches a conclusion at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the fourth and final session takes place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**9.30 Have I Got a Bit More Old News For You.** Satirical quiz. (R)

**10.15 Frank Skinner's Opinionated.** Alan Davies and Katy Brand join the presenter in Maidstone. Last in the series. (R)

**10.45 Nurse Jackie.** The nurse finds herself at odds with her family. Last in the series.

**11.15 Later with Jools Holland.** With PJ Harvey, Lykke Li and the Unthanks. (R)

**12.15** Film: Before Sunrise. (1995) Drama, with Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy. **1.55** Film: Anna M. (2007) Premiere. Drama, with Isabelle Carré. **3.35** Close.

**6.00 CITV: Mini CITV.** **7.25** CITV. **9.25** Coronation Street. **12.10** This Morning: Saturday. **1.10** ITV News: Weather. **1.15** Monk. **2.15** You've Been Framed! Funniest 100. (R) **3.15** Film: Live and Let Die. (1973) **5.30** Regional Programmes. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00 New People Do the Funniest Things.** New series. A selection of viewer-submitted comical clips, including unusual world records, wedding disasters and an underwater dinner party.

**7.00 Sing if You Can.** Mikey Graham, Lisa Maxwell and Rodney Marsh take on Ray Quinn, Darren Gough and Camilla Kerslake in the celebrity singing challenge.

**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host another round of auditions, as judges Amanda Holden, Michael McIntyre and David Hasselhoff continue their search for the nation's most impressive performers.

**9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Ann Widdecombe.** The former MP discusses her career and personal life.

**10.00 ITV News: Weather.** **10.15** Film: Dirty Harry. (1971) Police thriller, starring Clint Eastwood.

**12.15** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Swingtona. (R) **3.00** ITV Newsnight. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

**6.00 The Treacle People.** (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Formula 3 International Series. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Friends. (R) **9.25** T4: Koko Pop. **10.00** T4: Friends. (R) **10.30** T4: Glee. **11.30** T4: Great British Hairdresser. **12.30** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.25** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.00** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.30** Come Dine with Me Down Under.

**6.00 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **6.30** Channel 4 News. **6.55** 4thought.tv. **7.00** River Cottage Best Bites. A collection of recipes for autumn and winter. (R)

**8.00 Kate and William: Romance and the Royals.** David Starkey puts the royal wedding in historical context. (R)

**9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live.** Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall.

**10.20 Stand Up for the Week.** **11.05** Film: Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery. (1997) Spoof spy adventure, starring Mike Myers.

**1.00** Film: Secretary. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal. **2.50** Shapes. (R) **2.55** Home Country. (R) **3.00** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind. (R) **3.05** Hello Boys. (R) **4.00** Running in Heels. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. **10.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.10** Ice Road Trainers. (R) **12.05** Film: King of Kings. (1961) Biblical epic, starring Jeffrey Hunter. **3.10** Film: Ben-Hur. (1959) Oscar-winning epic, with Charlton Heston and Stephen Boyd.

**7.15** 5 News Weekend. **7.20** NCIS. Gibbs tries to extract information from a convict on death row about where he hid his victims – but the killer proves reluctant to confess. (R)

**8.15 CSI: Grissom's Greatest.** An apparent Mob assassination leaves five people dead, and a deaf man is killed in what initially seems to have been a car accident – until evidence of foul play comes to light. (R)

**9.10 CSI: Miami.** Two suspicious deaths occur on the same day, but initially seem unconnected – until Horatio Caine discovers that recently exposed both victims as paedophiles. (R)

**10.10 CSI: NY.** A popular schoolgirl is murdered.

**11.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** (R)

**12.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.10** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.35** HouseBusters. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

**ITV2**  
**3.15** Film: The Polar Express (2004) **5.10** Film: Robots (2005) **7.00** Homes from Hell **8.00** My Child Won't Eat **9.00** Britain's Got More Talent **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Film: The Whole Ten Yards (2004)

**ITV3**  
**2.30** Wallis and Edward **4.20** Downton Abbey **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.15** A Touch of Frost

**ITV4**  
**11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kochi Tuskers Kerala v Delhi DareDevils and Kolkata Knight Riders v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **10.00** Ultimate Force **11.35** Film: Queen of the Damned (2002)

**BBC THREE**  
**7.00** Doctor Who Confidential **7.45** Pop's Greatest Dance Craze **7.50** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.45** Family Guy

**BBC FOUR**  
**7.00** Tiger – Spy in the Jungle **8.00** If Walls Could Talk: The History of the Home **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Top of the Pops: 1976 **11.20** The Wonderful Wizard of Oz – The True Story

**E4**  
**1.25** Hollyoaks **4.00** Make It or Break It **4.55** Friends **6.00** Glee **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Friends **10.00** Film: 30 Days of Night (2007)

**FILM4**  
**3.25** Zulu (1964) **6.10** The Abyss (1989) **8.55** 4 Films For 9.00 Slumdog Millionaire (2008) Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel, Freida Pinto and Anil Kapoor. **11.20** Alien (1979) Sci-Fi horror, starring Sigourney Weaver.

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## Choice



## TIME TEAM

Channel 4, 5.30pm

Tony Robinson and John Gater chart the rise and development of geophysics technology since the archaeology programme's first dig in 1994. The presenters reflect on some of the most memorable discoveries made using geophysics, before Tony decides to test how precise the technology has become by challenging John to identify 10 objects buried in a field.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.45** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. **12.00** The Politics Show. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.55** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.25** Regional Programme. **4.55** Points of View. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**6.15** **Land Girls.** Connie discovers more about the piano player. (R)

**7.00** **Countryfile.** Julia Bradbury, Matt Baker and Katie Knapman visit Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire to learn more about the importance of spring in the west of England.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** More valuables are inspected at Winchester Cathedral.

**9.00** **Exile.** New series. Psychological thriller, starring John Simm.

**10.00** **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

**10.25** **Match of the Day 2.** Including highlights of Arsenal v Manchester United.

**11.45** **The Sky at Night.** A gigantic storm in Saturn's atmosphere.

**12.05** Film: Wah-Wah. (2006) Coming-of-age drama, with Nicholas Hoult and Miranda Richardson; Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: MasterChef. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** Churches: How to Read Them. (R) **4.15** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** MasterChef: The Final Three. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. The Portuguese Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

**6.00** **Davis v Taylor: The '85 Black Ball Final.** Colin Murray presents a look back at the final of the 1985 World Snooker Championship between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis. (R)

**7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Further coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the second session of the final and a scheduled nine frames. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00** **FILM: Shine.** (1996) Biopic of David Helfgott, the talented but fragile Australian pianist overwhelmed by the pressure of his father's obsession with success. With Geoffrey Rush and Armin Mueller-Stahl.

**12.40** Film: Resting Place. (1986) Racial tension in a Deep South town disrupts the burial of a black soldier, while an officer becomes suspicious about how he died. Drama, starring John Lithgow and Morgan Freeman. **2.15** BBC News. **4.45** The Super League Show. Action from the latest Super League fixtures.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Sing if You Can. (R) **11.30** This Morning: Sunday. **12.30** Dinner Date. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.40** Film: Columbo: Murder by the Book. (1971) **3.10** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.10** Film: Evan Almighty. (2007).

**6.00** **Regional Programmes.**

**6.10** **ITV News; Weather.**

**6.30** **The Cube.** A dance teacher and a skateboarding coach take up the challenge.

**7.30** **Coronation Street.** Steve and Tracy take Amy to Blackpool for the day.

**8.00** **Vera.** New series. Brenda Blethyn stars in the first of four murder mysteries as DCI Vera Stanhope, who tracks down killers with the help of sidekick DS Joe Ashworth (David Leon).

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten; Weather.**

**10.15** **Perspectives: Andrew Lloyd Webber – A Passion for the Pre-Raphaelites.** The composer discusses his love for the 19th-century artists.

**11.15** **Surgery School.** Ten doctors take part in a surgical training course. (R)

**12.15** Dating the Enemy. (R) **12.40** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## Channel 4

**6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.25** Freesports on 4. **7.55** T4: The Crush. **8.25** T4: Friends. (R) **8.55** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.25** T4: Being N-Dubz in America and Beyond. (R) **12.00** T4: Glee. (R) **1.00** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Jamie at Home. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Time Team.

**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**

**6.55** **4thought.tv.** Discussing people's right to have a church wedding.

**7.00** **Come Dine with Me.** A male make-up enthusiast competes against a houseproud woman, a rock 'n' roll musician and a dog-sitter, as the dinner-party challenge heads to south-east Essex.

**8.00** **The Hotel.** The Damson Dene deals with an influx of families.

**9.00** **FILM: The Bank Job.** (2008) Premiere. A bank robber ends up stealing top secret files the government and security services want buried. Fact-based crime thriller, starring Jason Statham.

**11.10** **FILM: The Football Factory.** (2004) Drama, starring Danny Dyer.

**1.00** Film: Dresden. (2006) German Second World War drama, with Felicitas Woll. **3.40** Civilization: Is the West History? (R) **4.35** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

## Channel 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** The Beeps. (R) **7.00** Mio Mao. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** Hana's Helpline. (R) **7.45** Animal Families. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.25** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Olivia. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) **10.00** K-9. **10.35** OK! TV Sunday. **11.30** Extraordinary Dogs. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.05** Film: Lawrence of Arabia. (1962) Oscar-winning epic drama, starring Peter O'Toole. **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** Film: The Golden Voyage of Sinbad. (1974) Fantasy adventure, starring John Phillip Law.

**7.20** **FILM: Godzilla.** (1998)

Hollywood remake of the Japanese monster adventure, with Matthew Broderick and Jean Reno.

**10.00** **The Walking Dead.** Rick discovers Merle is not where he left him.

**11.05** **FILM: Misery.** (1990) Oscar-winning thriller, starring James Caan.

**1.10** SuperCasino. **3.55** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.10** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## Digital

**ITV2**  
**3.00** American Idol **5.30** Britain's Got Talent **6.30** The Only Way Is Essex **8.00** Kerry Katona: The Next Chapter **9.00** Peter Andre: The Next Chapter **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: Gladiator (2000)

**ITV3**  
**2.10** Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **4.00** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **5.55** Downton Abbey **8.00** All the Queen's Horses with Alan Titchmarsh **9.00** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **11.15** Film: Amazing Grace (2006)

**ITV4**  
**11.00** British Touring Car Championship. The third round of the season from the Thruxton Circuit in Hampshire. **6.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi DareDevils v Kochi Tuskers Kerala. **8.00** Minder **9.00** Film: Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors

**BBC THREE**  
**7.00** Doctor Who **7.50** Doctor Who Confidential **8.00** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps

**BBC FOUR**  
**7.00** A History of Christianity **8.00** The Wonderful Wizard of Oz – The True Story **9.00** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **10.30** The Story of Light Entertainment

**E4**  
**3.55** Film: Rat Race (2001) **6.00** Friends **7.00** 90210 **8.00** Friends **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Being Erica

**FILM4**  
**3.10** The Iron Giant (1999) **4.50** Rooster Cogburn (1975) **6.55** The Madness of King George (1995) **9.00** Big Trouble in Little China (1986) **10.55** Near Dark (1987)

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**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake 9.15 The Wright Stuff, 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.55 Extraordinary Dog. (R) 1.25 5 News Lunchtime. 1.30 Home and Away. 2.00 Neighbours. 2.30 Film: Ice Station Zebra. (R) 3.00 Brian's Song. 3.30 5 News. 5.15 5 News at 5. Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 6.55 Referendum Broadcast on Behalf of the No Campaign. 7.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 7.30 5 News. 8.00 Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Film: The Sweetest Thing. (2002) 11.45 Film: National Lampoon's Barely Legal. (2003) Comedy, starring Tony Danza. 1.30 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 5.00 Brian's Song. 5.30 5 News. 6.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 6.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green. (R) 12.05 Meals & Moments. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Justice. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.30 Neighbours. 2.15 The Bill. 3.00 The Bill. 3.15 Film: Confessions of a Young Bride. (2005) 5.00 News; 6.25 5.30 Neighbours. 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 7.55 OK! TV. 7.00 News. 7.25 Referendum Broadcast on Behalf of the Yes Campaign. (R) 8.00 News. 8.15 The King's Speech: Revealed. 5 News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: Miami. 10.55 CSI: NY. 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 12.00 Casino Night. 12.55 Moments. 1.40 Brian Seale's Grand Tour. 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake, 9.15 The Wright Stuff, 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green, (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments, (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime, 12.20 Lunch Laid, (R) 1.15 Home and Away, 1.30 Neighbours, 2.15 The Show, 3.00 Chinese Food in Minutes, (R) 3.15 Film: Murdered at 10: Locked Room Mystery, (2008), 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather, 5.30 Neighbours, (R) 6.00 Home and Away, (R) 6.25 5 News at 7, 7.00 5 News at 7.30, 7.55 5 News at 8, 8.30 5 News at 9, 9.00 NCIS, 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent, (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, (R) 11.55 Poker: Aussie Millions, (R) 12.05 Special Forces: The World's Most Dangerous, (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour, (R) 4.45 County Secrets, (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS, (R) 5.45

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green. (R) 12.05 Meals and Moments. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 5.30 Home and Away. 1.31 Neighbours. 1.35 The Varney Variations. 1.40 The 10 Minutes. (R) 3.15 Film: Hush. 5.00 Thriller, starring Topi Spelling. 5.00 5 News at 5. Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 The 10 Minutes. 6.35 The 10 Minutes. Do It! The construction of high-speed train networks. (R) 7.55 Live UEFA Europa League Football. Coverage of the second-leg of a semi-final between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur. (Kick-off 8.05pm). Subsequent programmes are subject to change. 10.00 Film: Cobra. (1986). Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone. 11.50 Copies in Crisis. (R) 2.00 Superhero. 4.00 M&A in the City. 10.15 Brat's. 10.30 The 10 Minutes. 4.55 County, Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Show, 11.05 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green, (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments, 12.10 5 News Lunchtime, 12.20 Law & Order, (R) 1.15 Home and Away, 1.45 Neighbours, 2.15 The Vanessa Show, 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes, (R) 3.10 Film: Flood: A River's Rampage, (1997), 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather, 5.30 Neighbours, (R) 6.00 Home and Away, (R) 6.25 OK! TV, 7.00 5 News at 7, 7.30 Fifth Gear, 5 News Update, 8.00 The Big Truckers; 5 News, (R) 9.00 5 News at Night, 10.00 5 News, 10.55 The Walking Dead, (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis, (R) 12.15 SuperCasino, 4.05 Motorsport Mundial, 4.30 Fifth Gear, (R) 4.55 County Secrets, (R)

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Price: £144,950

**KINGSWINFORD****122 Rangeways Road**

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Price: £144,950

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Price: £139,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

**DUDLEY****Marmion Grove**

Positioned in a cul de sac location is this three bedroomed, extended semi detached property which has gas centrally heated and double glazed family sized accommodation which comprises: hall, through lounge/dining room, further reception room, extended kitchen, guest w.c., three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear, driveway. Ideal family property. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £125,950

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Price: £122,500 - No Upward Chain

**DUDLEY****Old Park Road**

This traditional style, bay fronted, double glazed & gas centrally heated three bedroomed semi detached home is situated in an established residential location, and may particularly appeal to first time buyers and young families alike. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Driveway and a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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Offers in the region of £239,950

**COSELEY****Denise Drive**

ONLY JUST CONSTRUCTED, an exceptionally spacious, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached in favoured district. Outstanding accommodation includes: imposing 15'6" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, elegant 17'9" lounge, transverse 23' dining kitchen acting as 'hub of the house' with extensive range of stylish units & various integrated appliances, laundry, Gallery landing, principal bedroom with shower room en suite, three further double bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, neat garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £235,000

**WORDSLEY**

**£5,000 REDUCTION**

A SUBSTANTIAL AND DISTINCTIVE, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which forms part of the sought after CUL DE SAC development of other detached properties, offering an IMMACULATE and EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS arrangement of accommodation, with GAS CENTRAL HEATING/DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: reception hall with guests cloakroom/w.c. off, splendid large full width lounge, separate formal dining room/home office, SPLENDID CONSERVATORY, refitted breakfast kitchen with built in appliances, THREE LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (en suite shower room to master and bedrooms one and two with fitted furniture) and house bathroom. The property is further enhanced by the LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and a BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £199,950

**11 Greenbank Gardens****COSELEY****Fozdar Crescent**

A distinctive, highly individual & comparatively spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & most uPVC double glazed detached that has been conscientiously maintained and much improved by vendors over the years. Set in cul de sac just off Ettingshall Road, the accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom/store, transverse lounge, sitting room with patio doors, refitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms (principal bedroom with fitted units & a w.c. en suite), spacious bathroom. Extensive secure concrete parking for a number of vehicles and LARGE CONTRACTORS GARAGE 20'9" x 11'5". SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £154,950

**COSELEY****Mount Pleasant Street**

RARE OPPORTUNITY An absolutely outstanding & quite exceptionally well appointed semi detached that has been meticulously upgraded & enhanced in recent years to an exemplary specification carefully retaining/enhancing so many of its features. The gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed accommodation includes imposing L-shape reception hall, elegant sitting room with bay, separate dining room (open fireplace), useful cellar, rear hallway, inner vestibule, large 25'2" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'chestnut' effect units, lobby & fitted cloakroom. Central landing, THREE BEDROOMS, appointed bathroom with white suite. Delightful secluded garden with GATED PARKING. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

**LANESFIELD**

**NEW PRICE**

**Ward Grove**

A TREMENDOUSLY EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been significantly improved by present vendors to provide entrance hall, lounge with bay, magnificent elevated/refitted dining kitchen with 'walnut' effect units & many integrated appliances, double doors through to uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, pantry, utility/laundry room, separate toilet & a further 'computer room'. Two double bedrooms, appointed bathroom with white suite. Lengthy well tended, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £121,995

**LANESFIELD**

**NEW PRICE**

**Ward Grove**

An exceptionally well presented, tremendously enhanced & particularly stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated (vender advice combi boiler fitted within the last few years still under warranty) & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge with contemporary 'living flame' gas fire & feature fireplace, transverse upgraded dining kitchen with an extensive range of fitted units, integrated appliances & patio doors to garden. Two double bedrooms (one with fitted wardrobes), reapointed/refitted bathroom with white suite, CARPORT, neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,995

**BRIERLEY HILL****Fox Foot Drive**

This gas centrally heated and double glazed modern style two bedroomed semi detached property is ideally suited to the first time buyer/young family. Having a new bathroom suite, the accommodation comprises: inner hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear, block paved driveway to the front, burglar alarm, and much more. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £111,950

**LANESFIELD**

**NEW PRICE**

**Norbury Crescent**

This beautifully presented, uPVC double glazed (vast majority), gas centrally heated semi detached home has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners and may appeal to both young families & first time buyers alike. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, living room, dining kitchen with a fine range of units, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, reapointed shower room with white suite, front & rear gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

**LOWER GORNAL****Woodfield Road**

A DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, tremendously modernised & improved, freehold, gas central & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' in well regarded district. Superb accommodation includes entrance hall, lounge with walk in bay, recently refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of Shinkler units, integrated oven, hob & extractor, pantry, lobby, separate toilet. Three bedrooms, recently reapointed bathroom with traditional style white suite, off road parking to front (kerb dropped) & good size rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,995

**RUSSELLS HALL**

**NEW PRICE**

**Middlepark Road**

This well presented modern style three bedroomed semi-detached home is situated in a popular residential location, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families. The property has both uPVC double glazing and a gas central heating system, and briefly comprises: entrance hall, L-shaped lounge and dining area, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with corner bath, driveway providing ample off-street parking, garage, and low maintenance garden to rear. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £99,950



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**NEW**  
Large Detached 4 Bed family House, Separate Lounge, Dining Room. Breakfast Kitchen, Laminated floor, Guest WC, Large Garden. Driveway and Garage, GCH. Viewing essential.

£695 pcm

### FEATURE PROPERTY

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**NEW**  
One Bed Ground Floor Flat. Furnished/Unfurnished. Large Lounge. Fitted Kitchen. Double Bedroom. UPVC. Parking.

£398pcm

Ragees Road, Kingswinford



**NEW**  
1 Bed First Floor Flat. Part Furnished. Large Lounge. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Double Bedroom. UPVC. Parking.

£395pcm

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**NEW**  
Spacious 3 Bed Semi. Through Lounge. Modern Kitchen. Bath & Shower. Large Garden/Patio. Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Value.

£495pcm

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**NEW**  
Well Appointed Three Bed Terrace, Modern Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Downstairs Cloaks, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, UPVC. GCH.

£450 pcm

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£475 pcm

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£425 pcm

Grant Road, Kingswinford.



Spacious 1 Bed First Floor Flat. Quiet Location. Large Lounge. Fitted Kitchen. Bath & Shower. Double Bedroom. UPVC. Garage.

£425pcm

Hampden Court., Quarry Bank



Three Storey Three Bed Town House. Courtyard Location. Large Lounge. Double Bedrooms. Master with Ensuite. GCH. UPVC. Garage. Value at

£550 pcm

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EVE LANE

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£595 pcm



**BRIERLEY HILL**

DADFORD VIEW

Cluster style property, Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, double glazing.

£450 pcm



**DUDLEY**

PEBWORTH GROVE

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Unfurnished, Front and Rear Gardens

£485 pcm



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Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Three Spacious Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£550 pcm



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Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

£370 pcm



**TIVIDALE**

ASHTREE ROAD

Purpose Built Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds

£395 pcm



**GORNAL**

NEW STREET

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£535 pcm



**AUDNAM**

PLATTS CRESCENT

Semi-detached property, Kitchen, lounge, wc, three bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets and curtains, large garden, off road parking, garage, Unfurnished.

£695 pcm



**PENSNETT**

PRIMROSE PARK

End terrace property, Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets and curtains, front and rear gardens, off road parking. Available immediately.

£575 pcm



**HALESOWEN**

ATTWOOD STREET

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

£495 pcm



**WILLEHALL**

MILL LANE

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Carpets & Curtains, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Parking.

£475 pcm



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**BROCKMOOR**

STATION ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Available Immediately

£550 pcm



**WOODSETTON**

FLAVELL STREET

Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Off Road Parking

£550 pcm



**WALL HEATH**

ALBION PARADE

Maisonette, Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, double glazing, parking, carpets and curtains. No pets.

£450 pcm



**TIPTON**

ANITA AVENUE

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Grounds

£350 pcm



**BRIERLEY HILL**

BAGLEYS ROAD

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Front Garden

£400 pcm



**AMBLECOTE**

PARK STREET

Builders Yard or Similar, Enclosed Secure Gate, Approx 3000 sq ft Rear Garden

£100 per week



**HALESOWEN**

BLAGDON ROAD

Ground Floor Flat, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Single Garage Available Immediately

£525 pcm



**TIVIDALE QUAYS**

BRINDLEFIELDS WAY

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£495 pcm



**WOLVERHAMPTON**

VICTORIA ROAD

Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

£575 pcm



**DUDLEY**

MERRYFIELD ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage

£580 pcm



**KINGSWINFORD**

LABURNUM ROAD

End terrace property, Lounge, kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom, off road parking, rear garden.

£445 pcm



**PENSNETT**

HIGH STREET

Shop premises in High Street location, WC & Kitchen Facilities, Parking at rear

£120 per week







Dudley Office  
01384 237313

# DIXONS

Estate Agents

DoingMore...

## Alexandra Road, Tipton



£65,000

**NEW**

Mid Terraced property briefly comprising reception one, reception two, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and two bedrooms. Benefiting from no chain

## Birch Crescent, Tividale



£100,000

**NEW**

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, shower room, rear garden and driveway.

## Limepit Lane, Dudley



Offers Over £170,000

**NEW**

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of a dining room, kitchen, lounge, shower room, rear garden and driveway.

## Saltwells Road, Dudley



Offers Over £120,000

**NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

## Keir Hardie Walk, Oldbury



Offers Over £95,000

End terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking to the rear of property.

## Peel Street, Dudley



Offers Over £110,000

Semi Detached two bedroom property comprising modern kitchen, dining room, lounge, downstairs bathroom, upstairs shower room, rear garden, driveway and garage. Corner plot. Viewing recommended



## Tansley Hill Road, Dudley



Offers Over £170,000

Semi detached four bedroom property, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, loft area currently used as bedroom, rear garden, drive and garage.

## Barncroft Road, Tividale



Offers Over £90,000

**NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and garage to rear of property.

## Birch Crescent, Tividale



Offers Over £120,000

**NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, extended kitchen, bathroom with separate wc, rear garden, driveway and garage.

## Haig Road, Dudley



Offers Over £65,000

**NEW PRICE**

Terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, family bathroom and front and rear gardens.

## Gill Street, Dudley



£100,000

**NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property, lounge, garage currently fourth bedroom, kitchen/diner and family bathroom, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

## Summer Lane, Dudley



Offers Over £70,000

Two bedroom ground floor flat, entrance hall with doors to both bedrooms, bathroom and lounge, kitchen, shared parking and communal gardens.

## Tansley Hill Road, Dudley



Offers Over £125,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, extended kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

## Langley Avenue, Bilston



£84,000

**NEW PRICE**

A three bedroom property briefly comprising of an enclosed entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, rear lobby, dining area, kitchen and bathroom. Also having a rear garden.

## Callaghan Drive, Tividale



£127,500

**NEW PRICE**

A three bedroom property comprising downstairs wc, study/bedroom three, utility room, lounge, kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

## 127 Bloomfield Road, Tipton DY4 9EB



**Public Notice**

We have received an offer of £116,000 on the above property. Any interested party must submit any higher offer to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Dixon's Estate Agents, 23 Stone Street, Dudley DY1 1NT

## High Street, Princes End



£75,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, lean to, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, car port, garage and driveway.

## Legge Lane, Bilston



£85,000

**NEW PRICE**

Detached two bedroom bungalow briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and garage to rear of property.

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## Callaghan Drive, Tividale



£180,000

Detached four bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

## Brunel Drive, Tipton



Offers Over £118,000

**NEW PRICE**

Terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, kitchen, downstairs wc, lounge/diner, family bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite, front and rear gardens, garage and driveway.



www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk



# Kia's new city car ticks all the boxes for owner

**I**N THE PAST, if you wanted an affordable runabout you had to compromise; refinement, cabin quality, performance and equipment levels were never great.

Recently things have started to change for the better. Factor in buyers downsizing and it's good to see manufacturers upping their game.

Some have responded more quickly than others, with Korean firm Kia surprising industry observers with its new Picanto.

The outgoing car has been a huge success, but it remains a genuine budget car – there's a big step from this to Kia's family hatch Ceed, for instance.

Not anymore, as the company has delivered a new Picanto boasting greater levels of refinement, a more dynamic on-road performance, improved cabin and boot space, family car levels of safety kit and economy, and emissions low enough to rival anything with a Bluetotion badge.

Essentially this latest generation Picanto is a mature and sophisticated interpretation of the classic city car. It's still small enough to drive around town and slot into those impossibly small parking spaces, but

**By Iain Dooley**

now it has the ride and handling qualities of something much bigger.

The same is true of the car's cabin, which is now more accommodating – thanks to a fractionally longer wheelbase – and furnished with noticeably higher grade materials. It's also a more stylish environment, which does much to distance the Picanto from the unadventurous stereotype of Korean cars of old.

## Confidence

Style-wise this Picanto could never be described as unadventurous. Clearly influenced by Kia's Sportage SUV, the Picanto's bold looks demonstrate the new-found confidence of the firm's design team.

There will be no mistaking this car's fuss-free sheetmetal and bold nose treatment for anything else in the supermarket car park. Getting younger buyers into the Picanto is priority right now, and Kia executives make no excuses for the car's striking appearance.

At the Picanto's core is a duo of small capacity petrol engines and impressive headline economy and emissions figures.

UK buyers will get a choice of 1.0-litre and 1.2-litre units with a five-speed manual gearbox and the option of a four-speed auto.

In standard trim the three-cylinder 1.0 motor emits just 99g/km CO<sub>2</sub>, with the bigger engine emitting 105g/km.

Power output is 69 and 85 horsepower respectively, while economy for the 1.0-litre lump is 67.2mpg and 62.7mpg for the 1.2.

The inclusion of stop-start technology knocks four points off the three-pot engine's rating, and although impressive don't expect to see the technology on all the cars.

The Picanto already breaks the magic 100g/km figure, and the cost of the stop-start kit could be used to offer a different alloy wheel choice or other creature comforts.

In practice the 1.0-litre Picanto will surprise many with its ability to keep pace with traffic, hold its own at motorway speeds and tackle corners with the maturity of something produced closer to home. Kia's little city car is now

all grown up, and its overall performance a match for anything in the same class from Europe.

What's most impressive is that three-cylinder motor. A willing performer that never becomes raucous even when pushed hard, its flexible nature ensures smooth progress at urban speeds and there's always enough in reserve for the occasional traffic light grand prix and out-of-town adventure. The 1.2-litre car offers a little more power and might be suited to anyone who regularly ventures outside the city limits. In practice the performance gain is a small one and, besides, the plucky three-cylinder motor sounds nicer.

For many the ownership experience will be just as important, and with Kia offering three trim levels it's unlikely that you'll be short of choice.

Aside from the usual suspects – power steering, remote locking, anti-lock brakes – depending on the trim level, you can expect to see the likes of electric windows and mirrors, air-con, alloy wheels and an audio unit including MP3 player connectivity.

Kia's now famous, and generous, warranty is another plus that shouldn't be forgotten, and there's the Picanto's seven – yes, seven – airbags. For a small car Kia's Picanto makes a big impression.



Small car, big impression:  
The Kia Picanto

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51 Reg	FORD PUMA 1.7 COUPE 3-dr, Silver, supplied by us	£1995
Y Reg	ROVER 75 2.5 CLUB AUTOMATIC previously sold by us	£1995
02 Reg	FORD KA 1.3 3-dr, Met Red, 32,000 miles	SOLD
X Reg	BMW 318i SE TOURING BLACK ESTATE	£2295
51 Reg	VAUXHALL OMEGA MK6 SALOON AUTOMATIC Silver, The ultimate Omega	£2495
52 Reg	HONDA CIVIC 1.6 IMAGINE Special Edition, 5-dr, Silver	£2495
02 Reg	TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVTi 3-dr, Silver, very low insurance	£2795
N Reg	LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TDI DIESEL 7 SEATER	£2995
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54 Reg	FORD KA 1.3 3-dr, Silver, supplied by us, low mileage	£2995
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02 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.8T 2-dr, Met Blue, lovely	£3495
06 Reg	CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE+ 5-dr, Silver, 26,000 miles	£3995
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 EXPRESSION 5-dr, Silver	£3995
04 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr, Metallic Silver, full service history	£3995
54 Reg	SKODA FABIA 1.6 AMBIENTE 5-dr, Black, top of the range	SOLD
02 Reg	PEUGEOT 206cc 1.6 CONVERTIBLE Silver, Rare 1.6 Model	£3995
54 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 2.0 HDI SPORT Met Blue, 42,000 miles DIESEL Group 5 insurance, Economical	£3995
01 Reg	TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 T2 5-dr, FSH, Metallic Red, Lovely	£3995
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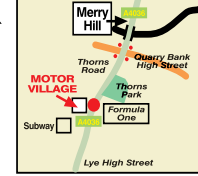
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IS Series prices start from £24,870 OTR. Model shown IS 200d Advance costing £25,605 OTR including optional metallic paint at £610. Price correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund licence and K55 first registration fee. Model shown may not be to exact UK specification. IS Series fuel consumption figures: urban 16.3-44.8 mpg (17.3-6.3 L/100km), extra urban 33.6-64.2 mpg (8.4-4.4 L/100km), combined 24.4-55.4 mpg (11.6-5.1 L/100km). CO2 emissions combined 270-134 g/km.

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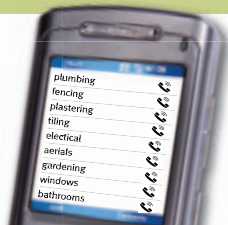




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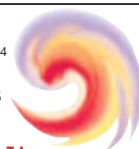
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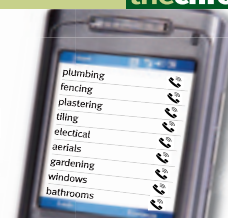
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# sport

## Late goal means defeat for the Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE were brought back to earth with a bump after their 6-1 home win over Bashley.

Gary Hackett's men led twice on Monday, but two goals in the last 15 minutes swung the game in favour of the home side.

Stourbridge were first to threaten after five minutes with Paul McCone sending a close range header inches over the crossbar from a Drew Canavan corner. Three

**Leamington 3 Stourbridge 2**

minutes later though the visitors opened the scoring as Canavan sent over a flag-kick from the right and Nathan Bennett powered a header past keeper Tony Breden.

The Glassboys continued to hold the upper hand and went close on 14 minutes when Sam Rock's sliced shot was headed over the bar by Josh Craddock.

Craddock also narrowly failed to turn home a cross by Ryan Rowe.

Leamington improved after the break and on 55 minutes a right-wing free-kick from Jamie Sheldon was met by Luke Corbett whose header was superbly tipped over by Lewis Solly.

Five minutes later, however, Leamington were level. A long kick downfield by Breden was pursued by Corbett who hooked the ball

back into the path of Sheldon who took a touch before smacking his shot past Solly.

Stourbridge regained the lead when Aaron Drake's free-kick found the unmarked McCone to head home at the far post.

But Corbett was then tripped to win a penalty which Richard Batchelor converted. Five minutes from time Batchelor cut the ball back for Corbett to fire the winner.

# MORGAN TREBLE BOOSTS GORNAL

**Goodrich 1 Gornal Athletic 7**

HAT-TRICK HERO Jake Morgan helped Gornal to their joint biggest league win of the season and moved Ian Rowe's men a step closer to securing third spot in the WMRL Premier.

Although a six-goal blitz in 20 second-half minutes would do the damage, Goodrich spent much of the game frustrating the visitors despite repeated raids on goal.

Much of the credit for Gornal's failure to get off the mark goes to Goodrich keeper Daniel Ware who made excellent saves to deny Dave Meese after just two minutes and Matt Martin on 27 minutes.

## Eight out of eight for Stour

STOURBRIDGE made it eight wins from eight to continue their domination of the Our Lady of Lourdes triples bowls league.

Richard Payne, Keith Mill and Jamie Watkins took the honours against Wordsley Green by 25-7 at the Kingswinford venue.

Kingswinford's Arthur Bradley, Pam Rogers and Brian Sable won 11-9 against Wordsley Park.

Wall Heath stay second after beating Valley Fields 13-11 while Dawley Brooks defeated Sedgley 13-8.

Stourbridge (Brian Brett, George Powell and Ralph Hill) won the Express & Star triples trophy with Kingswinford runners-up.

## Bragoli gets the winner

**Tipton Town 1 Loughborough Univ 0**

**CAPTAIN** Danny Bragoli struck the only goal as hard-working Tipton saw off third-placed Loughborough University to maintain their hopes of landing the Midland Alliance title.

Tipton started positively and defender John Hill headed the first chance wide from Marcus Jackson's corner.

Loughborough's main threat was coming through Raul Alexis, a classy striker with a neat touch.

But Bragoli's deflected 30-yard shot took the points.

By the time Jake Morgan controlled a high pass and volleyed home on 40 minutes Gornal could already have been six goals to the good.

Goodrich struck back just after half-time when a shot from 45 yards by striker Michael Allen flew into the top right-hand corner past the despairing dive of James Pemberton.

But the flood of goals for the visitors started on 58 minutes when a marauding run down the right from Dave Meese was handled badly by the Goodrich defence allowing Cameron Morgan to fire home.

Three minutes later, a searching Richard Young cross found Jake Morgan who controlled expertly and finished with aplomb to make it 3-1.

## Surging

Lee Wherton, captaining the side in the absence of Chris Waterhouse, got in on the act five minutes later when he lashed home after excellent work by substitute Marvin Nesbitt.

And just three minutes later it was Nesbitt who made it five with a nifty finish after being set up by Jake Morgan.

With Goodrich reeling from the onslaught, a surging run by Paul Henley from centre-back saw him feed the ball to substitute Callum Martin to mark his return from injury with a goal.

The rout was completed on 79 minutes when Jake Morgan wrapped up his hat-trick with the seventh goal.

Gornal's run-in continues on Saturday with an away trip to Wellington followed by the semi-final of the J W Hunt Cup on Wednesday, May 4 against Trivdale at AFC Wulfrunians.

## Heathens' first title in 16 years



Dudley celebrate in front of their happy fans. Back, from left, guest Byron Bekker, Richard Franklin, Ashley Morris, Luke Chessell and team boss Will Pottinger. Front, from left, Darryl Ritchings, Adam Roynon and Tom Perry.



Adam Roynon, on his way to a paid maximum, leads Buxton's Aussie star Robert Branford and Dudley teammate Tom Perry

DUDLEY have secured the Heathens' first national speedway title in 16 years.

They claimed the National Shield by beating last year's treble winners Buxton on their own circuit on Sunday afternoon and by 18 points on aggregate.

Although Dudley took a trophy for finishing top of the National League in their comeback campaign last season, the championship was decided by a play-off system.

And you have to go back to 1995 and the Premier League Fours when Billy Hamill was in his pomp for the last time the hand and hammer logo was on the top step of the rostrum.

Cushioned by their 16-point lead from the home leg Dudley, again in front of a good turnout of travelling fans, kept things tight throughout.

Adam Roynon was unbeaten but received plenty of support throughout the order with all seven riders paid for at least one win.

**Buxton 44 Dudley 46**  
**Dudley win National Shield 99-81 on aggregate**

**Buxton:** Robert Branford 13, Adam Allott 10+1, Ben Taylor 8, Luke Priest 6+2, Dean Felton 5+2, John McPhail 2+1, Ryan Blacklock 0.

**Dudley:** Adam Roynon 11+1, Byron Bekker 8, Ashley Morris 7, Richard Franklin 6+1, Tom Perry 6+1, Luke Chessell 5+1, Darryl Ritchings 3+2.

They had the title sewn up with three heats remaining and, six points ahead on the day going into the last race, could afford to rest the busy Roynon for heat 15.

The Cumbrian has maintained his excellent start to the season by winning races across all three domestic leagues, Elite, Premier and National, in the space of four days.

## Sad Yeltz are hit for six by the Pitmen

**Halesowen Town 0 Hednesford Town 6**

MARVELLOUS Marvin Robinson bagged a Hednesford hat-trick as the Zamaretto Premier runners-up geared up for the play-offs with a six-goal destruction of Halesowen.

The visitors were quickly on the front foot with home goalkeeper Simon Flower under pressure.

He grabbed Alex Melbourne's second-minute cross and Mark Smith made a vital headed clearance for the hosts in the ninth minute.

Hednesford's pressure forced an 18th-minute opening goal on Monday when a cross was only diverted by Smith into the path of Robinson and he headed home.

Despite having his back to goal, Robinson doubled Hednesford's lead after 31 minutes with a delicate overhead kick from 15 yards into the top corner.

There was little to be seen from the Yeltz going forward, although Anthony Bruce's 36th-minute shot almost foxed keeper Danny Crane before he gathered at the base of his post.

## Deadlock down in the cellar

**Tiverton 0 Halesowen Town 0**

THE CLASH of the two basement teams ended in a predictable deadlock and confirmed Halesowen will finish bottom of the Zamaretto Premier Division with Tiverton also condemned to relegation.

Halesowen's best chance of a dull first half on Saturday saw home goalkeeper Ryan Draper palm the ball away after Felix Kyremeh crossed from the right in the 23rd minute.

Seconds before the break, home striker Jules Emati-Emati hit over from three yards.

Halesowen created several late chances to snatch the game.

## Tally

Robinson nearly added to his tally when his speculative 25-yard shot was clawed away under his crossbar by Flower after 52 minutes.

But Chris Clements made it 3-0 to the visitors in the 61st minute after exchanging passes with Robinson before striking a low drive past Flower's despairing dive from the edge of the area.

## Block

Robinson completed his hat-trick by stroking home a 73rd-minute penalty after Alex Roope brought down substitute Kyle Patterson.

To add to Halesowen's woes, manager Shaun Cunningham was dismissed in the 75th minute following an altercation with the referee.

The Pitmen plundered a fifth goal when Patterson's cross was turned into his own net by Smith eight minutes from time.

And Halesowen were finally put out of their season-long misery by a sixth Hednesford goal when substitute Nick Wellescome was put clean through and calmly slotted past Flower in the second minute of injury time.

**Halesowen:** Flower; Adams, Robinson, Roope, Smith, Davies, Bruce, Folkes, Kyremeh (Mills 63), Moncheu (Curtis 75), Westwood. Subs not used: Jarrett, Ibhadow, Charnfield.

**Hednesford:** Crane; Gomes, Campion, Bailey, Keenan, Danny Patterson (65), Melbourne, Clements, Robinson (Wellescome 75), Quinn, Davidson (Francis 71). Sub not used: Dunkley.

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# Saxons yield in season's thrilling final home match

CAMBRIDGE may have taken the spoils in this end of season clash but the outcome was in the balance right up until the final seconds.

Eight tries and plenty of running rugby proved a real treat as the Saxons finished their Stourton Park fixtures in the party spirit, writes David Laurence.

The visitors made the perfect

**Stourbridge Saxons 22 Cambridge 35**

start, claiming their first try after just three minutes when pressure straight from the start resulted in second row Len Ashcroft-Leigh dotting down after bludgeoning his way over from two yards.

Dan Mugford's conversion extended the lead before Stour-

bridge hit back through a well-struck Jamie Hearn penalty 10 minutes later. The Saxons then nosed ahead when winger Matt Williams popped up on his opposite flank and powered his way to the line, dragging his opposite number with him.

The lead remained intact until the final move of the half. Cambridge had threatened earlier but Hearn beat Phil Ellis to

Mugford's cheeky kick ahead while Tom Jarvis stopped Mugford in his tracks as the stand-off looked set to cross.

But it was Mugford who was instrumental in his side's second try, making the break upfield before passing to full-back Billy Robinson who ran in unopposed, Mugford kicking the conversion.

Skipper Darren Fox thought he had grabbed a third Cam-

bridge try early in the second period after charging down a Sam Robinson kick and running 30 metres but was denied by a Gary Dipple tackle.

Billy Moss replaced Andi Lawrence on 48 minutes but was back on the touchline 10 minutes later having picked up a yellow card for handling in the ruck.

The visitors took full advantage of their extra man and back

row Gareth McComb dived in for a converted try to stretch his side's lead to 21-8.

But the longer the game went on, the more open it became.

Tommy Richardson claimed a second Saxons try on 67 minutes, slithering and bouncing his way to the line after taking a tap penalty 15 metres out.

Replacement Alex Kelsall then found plenty of space on the left

to run in a bonus try for the visitors only for Stourbridge to hit back again with superb work from replacement scrum-half Peter White unleashed Thinus Delport out wide to score and peg the gap to six points.

But it was Cambridge who had the final word when Fox pounced on a fumble at a Stourbridge line-out, Mugford slotting over his fifth conversion.



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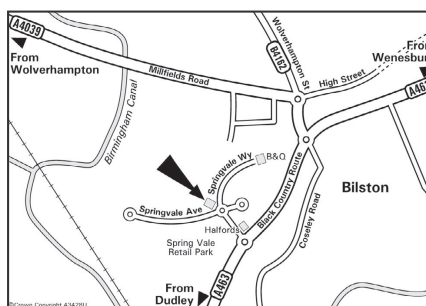
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